

Meeting Minutes Longmeadow  
Historic District Commission  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022

The Longmeadow Historic District Commission met on June 14, 2022 at 7:00pm in a hybrid setting where people were able to participate either in person at the Richard Salter Storrs Library at 693 Longmeadow Street or virtually via Zoom.

Present from the HDC were: Tim Casey, Andrea Taupier, Bret Lukezic, Diane Fisher (virtual), Robert Humberston (virtual), and Clifford Scott. Absent were Ryan Shanks and Jonathan Jordan. Also present were Nick Georgantas and Jean Maziarz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Public Comments:

Diane Fisher and Ryan Shanks' terms will end on 6/30/22 and Tim thanked them for their time and contributions to the HDC.

Old Business:

1. Minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Columbia Gas Update:
  - a. Concern 012222A - 051722 - Michelle and Scott Lavallee, 780 Longmeadow Street - Certificate of Non Applicability - Move gas meter from inside of house to the north side of the house behind a stockade fence. The application was approved unanimously.
  - b. Tim noted that the meter was placed behind a stockade fence on the north side of the building and was not visible from a public way. He believed that Cliff and Andrea mistook the house's oil piping for gas piping and this was understandable considering that the oil piping of this house was nearly identical to the gas piping placed by Columbia Gas on Cliff's house.
  - c. With this application being approved, the concern is closed and the matter of the Columbia Gas meter moves is also finally closed.
3. Concern 051122 - Amendment to Application 102521 - The Board of Trustees of the Richard Salter Storrs' Library, 697 Longmeadow Street - Remove fence towards the rear of the property. The application was amended to state "Remove the garden fence in back of the house." The application was approved

by a majority vote with Tim, Andrea, Diane, and Rob abstaining and the remaining members voting yes.

4. Eversource Gas Pipeline:
  - a. Tim reached out to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which is the federal body that advises on projects that fall under a Section 106 review. They informed him that they would be able to assist in advocating for placing the pipeline in historic areas only after a Section 106 review was requested by a federal agency. Since the pipeline is going to go near the Connecticut river and streams that run into it, it is most likely that the Army Corp of Engineers, New England Division would request such a review. Tim reached out to the Army Corp and has yet to hear back if they plan on requesting a review for this project.
  - b. Tim also reached out to Eversource's community relations representative, Joe Mitchell to talk about the project. Joe informed Tim that the project would not have any visible impact on the streetscape no matter where it was routed, since all structures except the pumping station would be underground. Tim said that he was glad to hear this since he was worried that the project would look like what had been done on Wolf Swamp Road and it was good to hear that this would not be the case.
  - c. Tim also submitted comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to advocate for the project to not be routed through historic areas in town.
5. Certified Local Government Application: No update

#### New Business:

1. Discussion of potential safety improvements to the driveway of Storrs' library.
  - a. Nick and Jean explained that there was recently a bike vs. car accident involving a child in the driveway exiting the library. They proposed that a "SLOW" sign be painted on both the entrance and exit driveways and that rumble strips be placed there as well.
  - b. Tim asked why rumble strips instead of speed bumps like those used elsewhere in the district. Nick explained that putting in speed bumps would require greater maintenance costs overtime and would have the potential to degrade the driveway at an accelerated rate while rumble strips could just simply be replaced if they were damaged with no impact to the road.
2. Discussion of potential window replacements for Center School
  - a. Nick informed the HDC that the DPW planned to replace the Center School windows with the Pella Reserve Traditional Style painted to match in kind with the existing color scheme. These windows conform to HDC design guidelines.

- b. Nick also informed the commission that there would be a demo window installed at the school and he would inform the HDC when this had occurred so they could view it.
  - c. Tim informed Nick that he had heard that some members of the community were questioning the necessity of the project. He advised Nick that it would be in the town's best interest to convince the HDC that this project was necessary compared to just repairing the existing windows. Preferably the town would be able to show how replacing the windows would help preserve the building or contribute to energy savings which are important to the HDC.
  - d. Nick informed the HDC that there would be a task force set up for making decisions regarding the installation of the windows made up of the various boards and departments in the town that have an interest in this process. Tim and Brett offered to join this task force from the HDC and Nick said he would inform them when the meetings would start.
3. Alter Section VIII Commission's Regular Meetings to add subsection H which would read as follows:
- a. All meetings will be held in a hybrid format unless the chair deems it administratively unfeasible ahead of time or special circumstances arise during the course of the meeting that cause termination of virtual participation.
    - i. The rule change was approved unanimously.
4. Discussion of Digitization of HDC Application
- a. Alterations to Section VII Application for Approval
    - i. Applications for approval of proposed changes ~~must be submitted through may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall on Williams Street, or~~ the town website [www.longmeadow.org](http://www.longmeadow.org).
    - ii. B. ~~Applications must be signed by the owner, trustee, or representative of the property concerned.~~ Applications made out by ~~a lessee~~ an applicant who does not own the property that is the subject of the application will be accepted only when accompanied by an authorization signed by the property owner.
    - iii. D. The Commission shall have the responsibility of notifying 10 days prior to the meeting all Historic District property owners that are within 100 feet of the applicant's property or two houses down on either side, whichever is greater. Also, notice must be given to any adjoining property owner. Notice to abutters must include the Commission's standard cover letter ~~and copy of page 1 of the~~

~~application submitted to the Commission.~~ with instructions on how to access the application documentation on the town website.

- b. Vote on [new form](#)
  - i. The alterations to the rules and the institution of the digital form were approved unanimously.
5. Modify Design Guidelines Section 4 as follows
  - a. If exterior storm windows are required, they should have wooden frames, or, if metal, should be painted to blend with the trim. Interior storm windows or frameless storm panels are recommended. The use of storm doors is discouraged by the Commission.

~~Permanent air conditioning units,~~ sSolar panels, antennae, or satellite dishes should not be seen from a public way.

~~However, a~~Air conditioning units can be visible from a public way if the property is not a primary residence and its primary function is for the education of children. ~~If a building is not used primarily for educational purposes, every effort should be made to minimize the effect the installation of a central HVAC or mini split system would have on the view from a public way by locating the system toward the rear of the property, placing structures or shrubbery to obscure the view of the condenser units and/or vents and ensuring any HVAC vents match the color of the house.~~

    - I. The rule change was approved unanimously.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully  
Submitted by  
Timothy Casey, Chair