

Milford Historic District No. 2, South of the Green
Minutes of Regular Meeting and Public Hearing – Board of Education Meeting Room (Learning Center), Parsons Government Center – May 11, 2016

Chair Carol Molloy Smith called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Present: Carol Smith, Gary Becker, Elizabeth Kennard, Arthur Paulson, Walter Ortolvea, Christopher Thomas, and Arthur Stowe.

The regular meeting stood in recess at 6:28 pm and the public hearing was called to order at 6:28 pm.

Public Hearing to consider Application for Certificate of Appropriateness from Michael and Robin O'Grady of 30 Reed Street, Milford, CT for rooftop solar panels (copies of appropriate documents were submitted)

Mr. & Mrs. O'Grady were present.

Mr. O'Grady explained to the Commission members he and his wife thought solar panels would be a good idea. The company they were looking into using said they would handle all the permitting; however, it seems as if the permitting wasn't followed through with. Mrs. O'Grady explained the only reason they realized there was an issue was when they attended the Commission meeting to see how the Xavier project was coming along and saw another person applying for a COA for solar panels. She said she immediately called Ms. Smith.

Mr. Becker commented the Town should have realized a COA should have been applied for; Ms. Smith echoed that sentiment and said Solar City should have understood that as well.

Mr. Stowe inquired as to how the panels have been working so far. Mr. O'Grady explained they are currently running a surplus with UI at the present time. Ms. Kennard asked if that was due to more than the usual amount of panels placed on their roof. Mr. O'Grady said the panels on their home are the typical amount, but they run a low demand household.

Being no further questions or discussion, the public hearing portion of the meeting was recessed at 6:33 pm in order to consider the rooftop solar panels.

The regular meeting was immediately reconvened at 6:33 pm.

COA submitted by Michael and Robin O'Grady of 30 Reed Street, Milford, CT for rooftop solar panels

Mr. Paulson and Ms. Kennard moved to approve the COA submitted by Michael and Robin O'Grady of 30 Reed Street, Milford, CT, for rooftop solar panels.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 6:35 pm and the public hearing was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Public Hearing to consider Application for Certificate of Appropriateness from Thomas Lawlor of 68 Green Street, Milford, CT, for solar panel installation (copies of appropriate documents were submitted)

Mr. Thomas Lawlor was present.

Mr. Lawlor explained to the Commission there is a very easy way to access all appropriate documents for the certificates of mailing through the City's website.

Mr. Lawlor thanked the members of the Commission for their patience with his application. He said it has not been a priority thus far and really appreciates the time the Commission has given him to sort this project out. The company he has been working with has been fantastic and even paid the fee for the COA. He added he is very happy with how the panels are working out financially and environmentally.

Being no further questions or discussion, the public hearing portion of the meeting was recessed at 6:38 pm in order to consider the plans for the solar panel system.

The regular meeting was immediately reconvened at 6:38 pm.

COA submitted by Mr. Thomas Lawlor of 68 Green Street, Milford, CT, for installation of solar panels.

Mr. Paulson and Mr. Stowe moved to approve the COA submitted by Mr. Thomas Lawlor of 68 Green Street, Milford, CT, for solar panel installation, as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 6:40 pm and the public hearing was called to order at 6:40 pm.

Public Hearing to consider Application for Certificate of Appropriateness from Ms. Jean Cervin of 3 Central Avenue, Milford, CT, for rooftop solar panels.

Chair Smith noted this hearing should be suspended and reconsidered at another time.

Public Hearing to consider Application for Certificate of Appropriateness from Mr. Robert Powers of 32 Central Avenue, Milford, CT, for out-build of garage and outbuilding.

Ms. Terri Powers was present.

Ms. Powers explained her husband is not well at the moment and she did not bring her certificates of mailing with her. She said she does have them at home. Mr. Ortoleva confirmed he received a mailing from the Powerses regarding their project. Ms. Smith said the Commission may conduct the hearing contingent upon the Commission being provided with the certificates of mailing as soon as possible.

Ms. Powers informed the Commission they have a 200-year-old garage/barn that had huge holes in the roof. When her husband decided to patch the holes, he "opened up a can of worms", as you do in older houses. His thought was to increase the pitch of the roof so as to accommodate a basketball hoop in the center of interior of the garage.

Ms. Smith explained the need for obtaining a COA for projects on homes in the historic district. Ms. Powers said she understands that now.

Ms. Smith said she had spoken to Mr. Powers and he informed her he was adding gingerbread to the garage to have it match the house. Mr. Ortoleva added instead of clapboard siding, the garage now has a knotty pine.

Mr. Stowe asked if the work has been completed; Ms. Powers said it has not.

Mr. Beecher of Central Avenue confirmed he received a mailing from the Powerses. He noted he has no objection to the garage project. He added when the work is completed, it will improve the appearance of the garage.

Mr. Thomas clarified with Ms. Powers that the side walls of the garage have not been increased in size, just the pitch of the roof was increase. Ms. Powers affirmed this statement.

Being no further questions or discussions, the public hearing was recessed at 6:54 pm to discuss the out-build of the garage and outbuilding.

The regular meeting was immediately reconvened at 6:54 pm.

COA submitted by Mr. Robert Powers of 32 Central Avenue, Milford, CT, for out-build of garage and outbuilding.

Mr. Paulson and Mr. Ortoleva moved to approve the Powers' application for COA at 32 Central Avenue.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Becker added this approval is contingent upon the Commission's receipt of the certificates of mailing. Ms. Powers said she will mail them to Ms. Smith upon returning home.

President's Report including Correspondence

Chair Smith reported the website needs to be updated with regard to the distribution procedure for applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. Ms. Smith will coordinate with the permanent Recording Secretary regarding this update.

Ms. Smith stated at the Commission's pleasure, we would like to redo the letter to neighbors in 2016 with the following changes and corrections.

Mr. Paulson suggested the Commission tonight authorize Chair Smith to resend the letter with one change: the largest paragraph in the middle of the letter, there is a list of structures that might need a certificate of appropriateness that do not require permits. He said to be added to that list should be solar panels.

Mr. Ortoleva inquired if someone is redoing a sidewalk going to their house, would that require a certificate of appropriateness; Mr. Becker said that is not a structure.

Mr. Paulson and Mr. Becker moved to authorize Chair Smith to send out this year's letter to neighbors with the addition of solar panels.
Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Mr. Ortoleva reported the Commission has a current balance of \$3547. He noted that is bound to change as he has a few more checks to deposit along with expenses related to conducting the meetings.

Unfinished Business

A. Tree Report

Ms. Kennard reported that she believes some of the tree work has been completed. Chair Smith commented the Commission is supposed to be informed ahead of time about which trees are to be taken down to give the Commission three to four months to have discussion regarding same. Ms. Kennard said she will follow up.

New Business

None.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Paulson and Mr. Ortoleva moved to adjourn at 7:06 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Colleen Birney