

1 APPROVED
2 HDC MEETING
3 JULY 2, 2020
4

5 Members Chair Rodney Rowland, Vice Chair Jeff Hughes, Tom Maher, Kate Murray,
6 Present: Elaine Nollet, Irene Bush and Judy Groppa
7

8 Due to Covid-19 and social distancing guidelines, the meeting was held in the Recreation
9 Room at the entrance of Great Island Common.
10

11 Chair Rowland called the meeting of the New Castle HDC to order at 7:00 pm. Rowland stated
12 there was one public hearing on the agenda and directed that anyone wishing to speak, must
13 please state their name and spell it for recording purposes. The Chair also advised that the
14 application was published, fees paid and abutters notified. Rowland, Hughes, Maher, Murray,
15 and Nollet will be voting.
16

17 1. Public Hearing for Jane Finn, 161 Portsmouth Avenue, for new front porch
18 railing.
19

20 Guests: Wendy Tauber and Jane Finn
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22 Wendy Tauber proposed to remove the painted lattice work on the front porch and
23 the current iron railing running down the front stairs which is disintegrated, and to
24 replace it with an aluminum railing. They will use Trex Systems aluminum for
25 the railings on three sides of the porch and down the front stairs. The columns,
26 risers and base of the porch will remain the same and will be painted white.
27

28 Chair Rowland stated that the picture looks like it has 1" x 1" square ballisters
29 which Tauber confirmed are square ballisters, 1" x 1" and the posts are 2 1/2".
30 Tauber stated that the existing front porch has lattice work which is not historic,
31 adding that the new railing will be more period-worthy. It will have the same
32 look but have new material.
33

34 Jeff Hughes asked when the lattice was put on the house. Jane Finn had no idea
35 as she has only owned the house for six years, however photos show that the
36 lattice was there around the mid-80s but it's now all rusted and rotted.
37

38 Chair Rowland asked if there were any questions. Elaine Nollet asked if the
39 railings were going around the sides and Tauber advised that yes the railing go
40 around three sides and also down the stairs, but she was not sure of the number of
41 slats. The Chair stated it looked there will be two slats in between the two front
42 columns on either side. Tauber stated that the columns will remain and just the
43 lattice will be removed. Elaine Nollet commented that she liked the simplicity.
44

45 The Chair asked if there were any other questions. He also asked if the house had
46 been owned by relatives of the Palmers. Jane Finn stated that Burt's brother had

1 owned it and their parents had actually lived there first. When the parents died,
2 Syd and his sister jointly owned it and Syd's daughter lived upstairs.

3
4 There being no additional questions, the Chair closed the public hearing.

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6 M/S/P Jeffrey Hughes motioned to approve the project as proposed; Tom Maher
7 seconded. All were in favor.

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9 The Chair advised the Applicant that he will send the approval to the building
10 inspector.

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12 2. Approval of minutes of meeting of February 6, 2020

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14 M/S/P Jeff Hughes moved to approve the minutes of February 6, 2020 as drafted; Elaine
15 Nollet seconded. All approved.

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17 3. Old and New Business

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19 Chair Rowland stated the Town of New Castle is a fairly new member of the
20 Certified Local Government through the Division of Historical Resources. They
21 have a program where the State checks in with communities every four years to
22 see how things are going in the community. They will be conducting meetings
23 virtually this summer and they want to know if the HDC would like to hold a
24 virtual meeting with them this summer. The Chair asked if it was something the
25 members could do and asked if it would be best to hold the virtual meeting in the
26 evening. Members agreed evening would be best and the Chair will try to set up a
27 virtual meeting for 7 pm sometime in August.

28
29 The Chair stated that it is a chance to talk to the Division of Historical Resources
30 and the Division is aware the town is trying to complete the survey. Rowland
31 added that the second application was not submitted last fall and he will see that it
32 gets in for the next funding round. The company that was hired to do the survey
33 asked for an extension and the Division of Historical Resources has given blanket
34 extensions so there is another year to complete the first stage of the survey.

35
36 Irene Bush asked about elections. The Chair stated the town report indicated that
37 Rowland and Bush's terms are up. Both Rowland and Bush are willing to stay
38 on the Board. The Chair asked Tom Maher how the Board member's
39 commissions work and whether the Board holds an election and the selectmen
40 will then certify the appointments. Maher confirmed that the Board can elect
41 members and the individuals that are voted and confirmed to re-up will fill out a
42 form for the Select Board. Since the Town meeting was delayed, Maher thought
43 the terms will be staggered.

44
45 M/S/P Jeff Hughes motioned to reappoint Rodney Rowland and Irene Bush as members
46 of the New Castle Historic District Commission and to elect Rowland as Chair;

1 Maher seconded. Hughes asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There
2 being none, all voted in favor with Rowland and Bush abstaining.

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4 M/S/P Hughes moved to adjourn the meeting; Maher seconded. All approved.

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6 Adjourned 7:15 pm

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8
9 Respectfully submitted,
10 Diane L. Cooley, Recording Secretary
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