

**APPROVED  
JUNE 2, 2022  
HDC MEETING**

Members Present: Chair Rodney Rowland, Vice Chair Irene Bush, Jane Finn, Kate Murray,  
Ruth Zikaras and Julia Thomas

Absent: Judy Groppa

The meeting was held in the Macomber Room. Chair Rowland called the meeting of the New Castle Historic District Commission to order at 7:00 pm. Rowland stated the applications had been published, fees paid and abutters notified; he also asked that anyone who wished to speak should sign in. The Chair, Vice Chair, Murray, Finn & Ruth Zikaras will be voting.

1. Public Hearing for Amy Rantilla, 16 Wentworth Road, for installation of condenser and related lines.

Guest: Amy Rantilla and Alex Sherrill

Chair Rowland advised that he had driven by the site and also spoke to the building inspector. Rantilla is installing a condenser on the side of the house to run air conditioning. Rantilla said the condenser looks like a big ugly suitcase under the window and it should be hidden; the fence is 41" high and 46" wide and she will move it forward to hide the condenser and spigot; the fence will move forward eleven feet and it will still be 8' from the road. Rantilla showed the casing for the condenser and the line will run up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and will be painted to match the house.

Kate Murray asked how far forward the fence will come in relation to the house. Rantilla advised that right now the fence is 19' from the road and partially covers the propane tanks. She will move it forward 11' to hide the condenser and refrigeration line and it will still be 8' from the road. It will make a clean line of fencing across the front.

There were no other questions and the Chair opened the meeting to the public at 7:04 pm. As there was no one to speak nor any questions, the Chair closed the public hearing.

M/S/P Kate Murray moved to approve the application as submitted, Irene Bush seconded. All approved including the Chair.

Rowland advised Rantilla that he would have the approval to the Building Inspector the next day.

The Chair commented to the Commission that he was not keen about the refrigeration line up the side of the house but it's being concealed as best as possible. The Building Inspector advised the Chair that the applicant was going to install the condenser without any permits but he warned her otherwise.

2. Public Hearing for the Portsmouth Yacht Club, 76 Piscataqua Street, map 18, lot 13 for window shutter replacement

Guest: Dave McCardle, Board Member of the Portsmouth Yacht Club, and Project Manager, Mary Pat Gibson

The Portsmouth Yacht Club would like to replace all the shutters on the West side of the building with vinyl two panel shutters. As you face the building, there is also a window on the far right with no shutters and the club would like to add shutters. On the West side, the shutters are currently metal or tin. The replacement shutters will be the same configuration.

Kate stated the current shutters are quite different than the proposed shutters, and a totally different look. She asked if there are any historical elements that the Commission needed to be aware of. The Chair stated that the proposed shutter is very common place and although it's not wood, it is a better material than metal. The Project Manager stated she thought a raised panel shutter along Piscataqua Street is much more in keeping with the neighborhood than a board and batten look.

The Chair asked the Commission if there were any other questions. There was also no one in the public to speak.

M/S/P Irene Bush moved to approved the shutters as presented; Kate Murray seconded. All in favor including the Chair.

3. Approve minutes from May 5, 2022

M/S/P Irene Bush moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 022 as amended; Kate Murray seconded; All approved including the Chair.

4. Any New Business

The Chair was advised that the Commission needs to elect officers; Rowland is willing to stay on as Chair and Irene Bush is willing to remain as Vice Chair.

M/S/P Kate Murray moved to approve Rodney Rowland as Chair and Irene Bush as Vice Chair; Ruth Zikaras seconded. All approved.

The Chair received a request from the New Castle Congregational Church. Steve Bedard, one of the best preservationists in the State, completed the building assessment. The Church is looking for grant funds and requesting a letter from the Historic District Commission in support of the work they need to get funded. They are going to LCHIP and Chair Rowland reviews for LCHIP, so he would like to avoid any conflict of interest, which is why Rowland would like the Commission to vote on it.

Rowland advised that LCHIP likes community support and also likes it if the project is part of the Master plan supported by the community; Jane Finn stated the Church is coming before the Select board on Monday.

M/S/P Irene Bush moved to write a letter in support of the Church's work for the grant application; Kate Murray seconded. All approved, including the Chair.

The Church is going to close in the holes in the belfry with louvered panels. Rowland will write the letter and sign it "Newcastle Historic District Commission". It was asked if work has already begun as there is scaffolding up at the church but the Chair stated it is for 5G. He stated he hopes his phone works better.

Jane Finn asked if she was supposed to be voting and the Chair advised her that yes, she votes on matters.

The Chair will not be at the July meeting, the Vice Chair will be running the meeting.

M/S/P Irene Bush moved to adjourn; Kate Murray seconded. All approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane L. Cooley, Recording Secretary