

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
STRATFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 7, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Susan Tabachnick, Jasmin Richards, Frank Borres

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Tabachnick called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Certificate of Appropriateness: Application 2015-03 – by Cynthia Taylor for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove existing pavement from driveway area and replace with asphalt pavement at 47 Rusling Place in the Stratfield Historic District.**

Commissioner Tabachnick said that there had been a number of questions that were raised about the plan to replace the concrete in the driveway with asphalt. She asked about the width of the driveway. Ms. Taylor then reviewed the width of the driveway. Commissioner Tabachnick asked why the paving would be up against the foundation. Ms. Taylor said that the pavement would be up against the house because of drainage issues. Right now there is a narrow strip of dirt that is allowing the rainwater to seep into the basement. The grass strip along the property line will remain. They are just replacing the driveway and it will be the same width that it is now. In front of the garage, it is 9 feet. They will expand that to 14 feet. In the winter, the parking area turns to mud.

Commissioner Richards expressed concern about changing the structure and appearance so that a vehicle cannot be parked on the lawn, in the front of the house. Ms. Taylor said that the parking was on the side of the house. The area by the garage that will be paved has been dirt and weeds.

Commissioner Borres asked for clarification on the measurements, which Ms. Taylor reviewed with him.

Commissioner Richards said that there would be a change in the character of the driveway. Ms. Taylor's daughter pointed out that the neighbors had fully paved driveways. Commissioner Richards stated that fully paving the driveway would change the character of the house. Ms. Taylor said that if the tires slip off the concrete pavers, the tires get stuck in the dirt. She said that she would like to have the plan approved and it has taken a great deal of work just to get this far.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 47 Rustling Place -

Commissioner Borres said that he thought it was okay to have it asphalted. Commissioner Tabachnick agreed. She said that it was unbelievable how much the concrete work would cost. Commissioner Borres said that he was pleased to have the driveway flared at the sidewalk. Commissioner Borres said that he was not pleased with the width of the driveway. Commissioner Tabachnick said that perhaps they should give her 12 feet. Commissioner Richards said that they were parking on the grass on the side of the house. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Tabachnick said that she felt that the Commission needed to work with the residents. She said that she was not bothered that it was 14 feet in width.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER BORRES MOVED TO A THE APPLICATION WITH THE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENT:**

**“FROM THE HOUSE TO THE STREET THE WIDTH OF THE DRIVEWAY IS NO MORE THAN 10 ' CENTERED WITH THE 14' AND FLARED AT THE HOUSE; AND FROM THE HOUSE TO THE TREE, THE WIDTH WILL BE 14' AND THEN REDUCE TO 13' FEET BY THE TREE TO THE GARAGE.**

**\*\*COMMISSIONER RICHARDS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

Commissioner Tabachnick said that the issue has come up about the replacement of the roof at 54 Elmwood Place. Commissioner Tabachnick said that the samples were dropped off, but the Commissioners were never notified. Ms. Meryl Rosal said that her contractor had reported that he had dropped the samples off. She said that she had color pictures of the shingles. Ms. Rosal came forward and showed them the color palette. Ms. Rosal said that while the Commission would like to have the homes be individualized, she just wanted to have her roof replaced.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER RICHARDS MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COLOR OF THE ROOF SHINGLES BE CHESTNUT AT 54 ELMWOOD PLACE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER BORRES SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Rosal asked about the getting stained glass installed. Commissioner Tabachnick suggested a contractor who does stained glass restoration and suggested Torrington Sash and Door for the restoration of the sashes. Commissioner Borres pointed out that with historic houses, the owners need to find contractors who do fine woodwork, rather than

just a general contractor. Commissioner Tabachnick mentioned the Historic House credit program and Commissioner Borres agreed, saying he had received a significant amount from the program.

**Minutes of December 2013 and July 2014, October 7, 2014, November 2014, June 2015.**

Commissioner Tabachnick suggested that the minutes be tabled until the next meeting. This was agreeable to all.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER BORRES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER RICHARDS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services