

**Town of Windham  
Windham Historic District Commission**

**Minutes**

**January 2015 Meeting: Rescheduled, February 11, 2015**

The January meeting of the Windham Historic District Commission meeting was held on February 11, 2015 due to winter storms. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman, William McMunn. Members in attendance were Alice Burns-Decelles, David Masopust, Lori Sweet Gulliard and Nancy Thorpe. Representatives of St Paul's Church present were James Russel and George Younger.

Minutes for the October and December 2014 meetings were distributed and approved with the following changes to the minutes of the special meeting held on December 13, 2014:

- Words "handicapped access" be changed to "improved access" to St. Paul's Church.
- The names of Alfred Decelles and George Younger be added to those in attendance.

The changes were so noted and the minutes were accepted as corrected.

**St. Paul's plans for improved access to the main entrance of the church.** This was an informal discussion to review the proposed changes that include the redesign of the sidewalk, front steps, and front yard grade to provide a safer entrance and exit. St. Paul representatives James Russel and George Younger reviewed the plan and drawing created with the help of D. Kyle Sterns, Contractor. The changes will create a level access to the entrance from the driveway by raising the grade gradually as it moves toward the entrance of the church. The plan calls for eliminating the three front steps at the edge of the road but retain the stone wall. Steps from the church will remain and land on the grass. It is uncertain at this time as to whether a railing will be needed. Pavers will be used to create a smooth walkway all the way from the parking lot to the entrance. The contractor also met with Alice and Alfred Decelles to review their concerns for water draining onto their property and across their driveway as it meets Plains Road. Mr. McMunn instructed the St. Paul's representatives to complete a Certificate of Appropriateness and file with the Town Clerk prior to the next meeting on February 25, 2014.

Preliminary discussion of the pending application from David Dupuis to build an above-ground pool at 111 Windham Center Road, to be acted upon at the regular Commission meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> was postponed until Mr. Dupuis could attend a meeting.

**Other items**

- **"An Act Concerning Safe Streets in Historic Districts"**. Attorney John McGrath, resident of the Historic District, reviewed legislation currently being proposed to the State Legislature. This act proposes that state and local roads running through Historic Districts (1) limit speed to 30 mph, (2) eliminate passing zones in such areas, and (3)

promote the use of pedestrian walkways. Mr. McMunn clarified that the Commission's role would be that of advocacy.

- **Wells at Windham Center School.** Wayne Donaldson, Director of Buildings and Grounds for Windham Public Schools had contacted Mr. McMunn to ask for suggestions for appropriate covers for the two proposed wells on school property, both of which will be visible from the road and present tripping hazards. Commissioners gave some ideas and are waiting for further information.
- **Proposed Celco Verizon antennas at 790 Main Street, Willimantic.** Mr. McMunn was contacted by the owner of the building regarding proposed antennas on each front corner of the building. The drawing provided indicated that most of the antennas would be hidden and therefore did not have an impact on the appearance of the historic building. The Connecticut Siting Council had previously determined that the proposed antennas had no impact on the appearance of the building.

The next meeting of the Windham Historic Commission will be held at the Windham Center School, at 7pm on February 25, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thorpe, Commissioner