

Town of Windham
Windham Historic District Commission
Commission Meeting Minutes:
January 27, 2016

The Windham Historic Commission held a commission meeting on **Wednesday January 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Windham Center School**, 41 North Road, Windham, CT.

In attendance: commission members Alice Burns-Decelles, Lori Guillard, David Masopust, and William McMunn, and alternate David Dupuis.

Also in attendance were Josh Niles from the Windham Center Fire Department and Wayne Donaldson, Director of Buildings and Ground Facilities, Windham Public Schools.

1. Commission Meeting called to order by Chair, William McMunn at 7:05 p.m.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were not read.
3. Informal discussions:
 - The first order of business was a preliminary informational discussion with Josh Niles, representing the Windham Center Fire Department in its wish to purchase the Maricarole Shooks property at 20 Windham Center Road, property 13 in the Historic District, adjacent to the present Fire Department property at 18 Windham Center Road. The members of the Fire Department wish to remove the Shooks residence in order to build a larger fire station to accommodate the size of new fire trucks. If this could happen, they would plan to keep the present fire-hall while the building process was occurring, and then afterward use the original fire-hall for office space, while creating a 4-bay, 2-story building for the new fire station on the Shooks property. The buildings would be connected by an enclosed walkway. Mr. Niles showed drawings of the enlarged fire station on the present Fire Department property, explaining that the possibility of acquiring the Shooks property had come about too recently for new drawings to be available.

The Historic District Commissioners expressed concern about the potential demolition or removal of the Shooks home and the ensuing loss of village character. The date of the house's ell is 1732, while the later addition is from 1803, making the ell one of the earliest homes still standing in the village. Chairman McMunn outlined the process that should be followed to make a formal application to the Historic District Commission.

- The second order of business was the barriers that have been erected (both metal poles and wooden boards) in front of the Windham Center School to protect the children from walking or stumbling into the traffic zone. Wayne Donaldson was very apologetic regarding the lack of communication with the Historic Commission about the design of the barriers before they were installed. He offered to paint/stain the barriers any color that the Commission would consider appropriate, and he offered to bring color swatches to the next meeting.

Mr. Donaldson also asked the Commission for recommendations for safety covers for the school's new well caps. Several suggestions were made for attractive covers, including imitation rock. Mr. Donaldson will bring photos of some possibilities to the next meeting. The commission offered to handle this decision by agreement without requiring a formal application.

4. Next the Commission Meeting was temporarily closed and the Public Hearing was called to order. No members of the public were in attendance.
 - One application for a certificate of appropriateness was submitted on December 2, 2015 by Dr. Stephen Rouse, to install solar electric panels at 3 North Road. As there was no commission meeting in December, this was the first opportunity to consider this application. The application itself contains no details of the plan, but two different building permit applications with electrical specifications and drawings of roof layouts were submitted for 3 North Road. In addition, Dr. Rouse emailed four photographs of his house, photoshopped to indicate placement of solar panels on several sections of the roof. The commissioners raised a number of questions about details of the plan but unfortunately neither Dr. Rouse nor his designated representative was present to answer the questions.
5. The Public Hearing was closed and the Commission meeting was re-opened.
 - Because we were unable to move forward with answers to our questions, David Masopust made a motion to deny the 3 North Road application without prejudice. Alice Burns-Decelles seconded the motion. This motion has the effect of deferring Commission action until a later meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - The next meeting will be on February 24th at the Windham Center School at 7:00 p.m.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Guillard