

Meeting Minutes Longmeadow  
Historic District Commission  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

The Longmeadow Historic District Commission met on September 14, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Storrs Library Parking Lot.

Present from the HDC were: Tim Casey, Clifford Scott, Bret Lukezic, Andrea Taupier, Jonathan Jordan, and Robert Humberston. Absent was Ryan Shanks and Diane Fisher. Also present were Jennifer Burritt, Al and Betsy McKee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Old Business:

1. Minutes from the July 13, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. The following is an update to First Church's inquiry about replacing their slate roof with an imitation slate metal roof.
  - a. After discussion with town counsel, it was determined that the church would most likely be ineligible for public funding due to the precedent set by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in the *Acton* case. Therefore, the church is at this time withdrawing consideration for replacing their slate roof with an imitation slate metal roof at this time.
  - b. The cost to replace the slate roof is currently estimated at \$250,000 if the church were to keep the roof a slate roof and would be \$125,000 to replace the current roof with imitation slate metal roofing. Additionally, the church claims that the cost of upkeep on a slate roof is significantly more than the metal roofing but was unable to provide figures for comparison at the time of this meeting.
  - c. The church has agreed to apply for a grant through the National Sacred Trust in an attempt to mitigate the cost of putting on a new slate roof. They should hear back on the status of the grant by October of 2022. It should be noted that this is the only option that they seem to qualify for and have exhausted options within the United Church of Christ network ahead of time. If they are unable to get a grant that will offset the cost of a new slate roof, they will reapply for a metal roof at that time citing financial hardship as a reason for the change.
3. Columbia Gas Update: 3 applications received and will be voted on today.

Within the next month, the concern process will be started for the following addresses: 780 Longmeadow Street, 788 Longmeadow Street, 796 Longmeadow Street, 857 Longmeadow Street, 859 Longmeadow Street and 878 Longmeadow Street.

#### New Business:

1. Demonstration of potential option(s) for replacing the fence behind 697 Longmeadow Street.
  - a. Feedback from HDC: Overall, the ANZAC material was well received for a synthetic.
  - b. The HDC asked Jennifer to bring back a post crafted from the material and painted to imitate wood as much as possible. The HDC will review this post and determine the appropriateness of the material at that time.
2. 080621 - Columbia Gas, 777 Longmeadow Street - Retroactive application  
Columbia Gas replaced the main line along Longmeadow Street. Once the new main was installed CMA reran the service lines and moved the meter outside and placed it on the north side of the building. The application was approved via majority vote with Clifford Scott abstaining due to being an abutter.
3. 081221 - Columbia Gas, 844 Longmeadow Street - Retroactive application  
Columbia Gas replaced the main line along Longmeadow Street. Once the new main was installed CMA reran the service lines and moved the meter outside and placed it on the south side of the building. The application was approved unanimously.
4. 082221- Columbia Gas, 812 Longmeadow Street - Once the new main was installed CMA reran the service lines and moved the meter outside and placed it on the north side of the building. The application was approved unanimously.
5. Amend the “Fences” section of the Design Guidelines to read as follows  
“Historically appropriate enclosures include wrought iron fences, **imitation wrought iron fences**, painted picket fences, **split log, snake rail**, low hedges, or low retaining walls. Inappropriate enclosures include opaque fences such as stockade fences, vinyl fences, high berms and modern fence types such as chain-link., ~~or contemporary metal railings.~~”
6. Amend the “New Construction and Materials” “Materials” Subsection to read as follows: “The exterior materials used in new construction should be compatible with historically appropriate materials of neighboring buildings or the District as a whole. **From time to time, exceptions may be made only if there is extremely minimal impact when viewing the element in question from a public way or if the material in question is not discernible from the original at any point in its service life from a public way.**”

**Additionally, when choosing materials for new constructions and additions, the sustainability and reusability of the material used should be heavily considered.**

7. Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully  
Submitted by  
Timothy Casey, Chair