

**Town of Fitzwilliam  
Historic District Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020**

**Members Present:** John Fitzwilliam, Chairman; Bill Davis; Marcia Camden; and Dan Baker, Selectman's Representative.

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Lori Nolan, Land Use Coordinator

**Others Present:** Dan Sutton; Pat Deyo; and Dick Goettle.

**Call To Order** The Chairman opened the meeting at 4:09pm.

**Chairman Fitzwilliam motioned to unseal the non-public session minutes of August 13, 2020. Marcia Camden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

**Chairman Fitzwilliam motioned to approve the application of Tanton and Helen Mattson for roof-top mounted solar panel installation as proposed. Mr. Davis seconded. Motion did not pass.**

Yes: 0; No: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; Abstained: 0

As the motion to approve the application did not pass, the application is therefore denied.

**Daniel and Maureen Sutton – installation of snow/ice guards on roof at 15 Upper Troy Road [Map 32, Lot 28 – Residential District]**

Chairman Fitzwilliam welcomed Dan Sutton to the meeting. Mr. Sutton stated he is proposing adding ice railings to his slate roof on the north (rear) side of his house. Ms. Camden felt the railings will not be very visible. Mr. Sutton commented that when walking around the Common, he observed the Town Hall has triple rails and the Amos House has one rail. He further observed the Whittemore Church and the School House on Upper Troy Road have double rails. Mr. Sutton felt ice rails are needed at his house due to avalanches occurring up to a dozen time a year. The HDC as a whole had no objections to the application.

**Mr. Davis motioned to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Camden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

**Fitzwilliam Town Library – structural repairs to the north side and west front of the Fitzwilliam Town Library at 11 Templeton Turnpike [Map 32, Lot 50 – Residential District]**

Chairman Fitzwilliam welcomed Dick Goettle, treasurer of the Fitzwilliam Library, to the meeting. Mr. Goettle stated that the library has some structural repairs which must be addressed. On the north side, they would like to replace the door as the sill is rotted. The existing door receives so much weather, they are proposing using fiberglass material. The bulkhead has also failed and would prefer to replace with a metal door so it will last forever.

Mr. Goettle asked the Commission what materials should be used for trim. They are proposing using cedar as the lifespan is basically the same as pressure treated. Chairman Fitzwilliam stated the

Commission has approved synthetic materials in the past if painted and the final appearance remains the same.

Mr. Goettle then moved on to the front porch. They will hold off for now on the drainage issue. However, they would like to rebuild the porch in-kind, including the use of mahogany lattice. He felt they cannot mix building material and asked what latitude they have to rebuild in-kind. Chairman Fitzwilliam stated that hard grain pine is no longer available and the proposed material should look fine.

Chairman Fitzwilliam and Mr. Davis both had no issue with the metal bulkhead door.

Chairman Fitzwilliam asked if the door being replace is on the north side. Mr. Goettle replied yes, they will use appropriate materials for underneath the structure of the porch.

Mr. Goettle further explained they will ultimately replace the fence in-kind. They need to fix the posts and then clad around them. But the end result will look exactly the same.

**Ms. Camden motioned to accept the proposal as written. Chairman Fitzwilliam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

### **Review of Minutes**

After a brief discussion and one minor adjustment, **Ms. Camden motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Chairman Fitzwilliam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Mr. Davis asked if there has been anything done in regards to the old Post Office building. Selectman Dan Baker commented that the Town has sent a letter and will send out code enforcement.

Mr. Davis asked if there are any updates on the Schofield fence. The LUC stated no updates have been received. Chairman Fitzwilliam commented that they have one year to act.

Selectman Baker updated the Commission about monuments and trash in yards. The BoS have asked the Planning Board to draft an ordinance. After some pushback from the Planning Board, the BoS will meet with the Planning Board in hopes of drafting an ordinance to give the BoS some enforcement teeth. However, Selectman Baker will continue to update the Commission. Mr. Davis was encouraged but felt if there is a rule, it should be enforced. Selectman Baker stated the Town is bound by the State.

Chairman Fitzwilliam discussed the biggest challenge before the Commission. At the last meeting, they reviewed an application for roof-mounted solar panels on the front of the house. No one on the Commission is opposed to solar; just the location was problematic. Ms. Camden felt it was a conflict between new technologies fitting in with the old feel. Pat Deyo felt it is a tough situation. Selectman Baker stated there are now slate looking panels. Mr. Davis felt aesthetics are bad. Ms. Camden commented that the Jaffrey Central have panels and it takes away from the historic feel of the area. She wondered if NH Preservation had any alternatives for the Mattson's.

Mr. Deyo asked about junky yards and litigation. Ms. Camden replied that the Town has no teeth so the HDC is concerned that the Town currently can only send letters.

Mr. Deyo, who is interested in joining the Commission, asked what is not allowed in the HDC as new synthetic materials are allowed as long as they look okay. Chairman Fitzwilliam explained that vinyl siding and vinyl doors are not allowed. It is not permissible on an old house but is standard on modern houses. The Commission has approved some replacement windows but would rather preserve old

windows, etc. Mr. Davis added that there are modern options that look the same available commercially but they are very expensive, especially compared to vinyl. There is a need to find a balance. Ms. Camden mentioned that Marvin have windows available that look like old.

Mr. Deyo asked if trees and fencing can be an issue. Chairman Fitzwilliam stated that the HDC is concerned with items that are built; not living items. Trees and vegetation is not within their scope.

Mr. Deyo then asked what to expect if joining the Commission. Mr. Davis stated reviewing applications and rendering decisions. The Commission is not meant to obstruct. Mr. Deyo asked if site walks occur. Mr. Davis stated sometimes.

With no further business to discuss, **Mr. Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Camden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 3 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; and Camden]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Nolan  
Land Use Coordinator

**Minutes approved as written on November 12, 2020.**