

**Town of Fitzwilliam
Historic District Commission
Minutes
February 17, 2022**

Members Present: John Fitzwilliam, Chairman; Bill Davis; Pat Deyo; Ken Beckwith; and Robyn Bates, Selectmen's Representative.

Members Absent: Marcia Camden

Staff Present: Lori Nolan, Land Use Coordinator.

Others Present: Dan Sutton; Gary Taylor; Ben Thomas.

Call To Order The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

Daniel Fougere – consultation for new construction at Route 119 West. [Map 34, Lot 2.2 – Residential District].

This case has been resolved and the appointment was not held.

Fitzwilliam Historical Society – to permit construction of a 10x20 foot storage shed at 66 Route 119 West. [Map 32, Lot 10 – Residential District].

Mr. Fitzwilliam welcomed Dan Sutton and Gary Taylor, Board members of the Historical Society, to the meeting. Mr. Sutton explained that the Monadnock Regional High School shop program will build the storage shed. It will be built using vertical hemlock or spruce board and baton for siding and asphalt or fiberglass shingles in a dark color for the roof. The door will be arched and similar in look to the 19th century architecture. The original hardware is still in good shape. They plan to paint using white for the siding and trim, and dark green for the door and shutters. They are looking for grants to repaint the main existing building. The doors will face the Blake House. The placement will be on the western side closest to the back parking lot for the Inn. The storage shed must avoid the septic, which is close to the fence by the back lot line and Borowski's. The distance to Richmond Road would be 15 feet. There was thought to have the shed on skids to make it moveable.

Ben Thomas, abutter, did not feel it was worth it to make it moveable. He suggested installing on blocks. Mr. Sutton agreed that it would look more natural without the skids. Mr. Thomas also preferred clapboards over board and baton siding to match the neighborhood. He had issues that the addition in the back is not historical in nature and doesn't match. He would also prefer a fiber shed. Mr. Sutton felt that buildings can have different styles. Mr. Thomas disagreed and stated this lot is in the heart of town and the shed will be very visible. Mr. Sutton detailed various properties in the Historic District that use board and baton for siding. Mr. Fitzwilliam felt this shed should be a little jewel. He suggested using clapboard on the front and board/baton on the sides and back.

Mr. Deyo motioned to approve the 10x20 foot storage shed with the following conditions:

1. The front will have the doors facing the Blake House;
2. The North (facing the Inn) and East (facing Route 119) sides will have clapboards for siding;
3. The other two sides can use board and baton for siding;
4. The foundation is to be a poured pad or precast piers/blocks;
5. The roof is to be asphalt architectural shingles in a dark color.

Bill Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Deyo; Beckwith]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Old Business

Historic District Guidelines

Mr. Davis brought in samples of alternatives to cedar clapboards. Mr. Thomas commented that western hemlock is a good alternative to cedar and is more affordable. He also stated that hardy plank is a good option. Vinyl cedar still contains the J-channel for trim, which makes it obvious visually. There are new products available with J-channel built in but it is more expensive. Mr. Davis explained that pine clapboards are relatively inexpensive

but not durable. Cedar and hemlock are quite pricey. Hardy plank is installed like clapboard and virtually maintenance free.

Mr. Davis felt that new construction houses will not be post and beam. They will be built with modern construction techniques. Everyone will know it is a new building. If it looks correct (6 over 6 windows, clapboard look, etc), why not consider maintenance free options? He still felt that existing structures need to keep traditional clapboards and be replaced with in-kind materials. Mr. Fitzwilliam felt this was a reasonable proposal. The newly refurbished steeple on the Town Hall uses composite materials but you cannot tell.

Mr. Deyo motioned to continue to prohibit aluminum and metal siding in the Historic District. However, vinyl materials, including man-made/composite, that accurately replicate the time period with authentic installation may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Fitzwilliam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Deyo; Beckwith]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Minute Review

Ken Beckwith motioned to accept the minutes of January 13, 2022 as written. Mr. Deyo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Deyo; Beckwith]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Mr. Davis motioned to accept the minutes of January 27, 2022 as written. Mr. Deyo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Deyo; Beckwith]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Mr. Deyo relayed to the Commission that he will be stepping down in June. He enjoyed his time on the Commission but has other commitments to take care of.

With no other business to discuss, **Mr. Beckwith motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Deyo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Beckwith; Deyo]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Minutes approved as written on April 14, 2022.