

**Town of Fitzwilliam
Historic District Commission
Minutes
February 9, 2023**

Members Present: John Fitzwilliam, Chairman; Bill Davis; Ron Heroux; and Isaac Morse (remote).

Members Absent: Ken Beckwith; and JEF Craig, Selectmen's Representative.

Staff Present: Lori Nolan, Land Use Coordinator.

Others Present: Dick Goettle; and Simon Gray (remote).

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

With the absence of one member, Isaac Morse was seated as a voting member.

Appointments

Fitzwilliam Community Church – to permit a sign mounted to the building to replace the free standing sign at 85 NH Route 119 West. [Map 32, Lot 57 – Residential District]

Mr. Fitzwilliam welcomed Dick Goettle, church trustee, to the meeting. Mr. Goettle explained that the sandwich board sign that they are currently using is not working. The weather blows it around, rendering it useless. The church has proposed a signage board attached to the northwest corner of the church. It will be approximately 3x4 feet in size and framed in black. The purpose would be to announce upcoming events.

The Commission was agreeable to the conceptual proposal – a window/shadow box with white trim and a glass/plexi-glass front.

Mr. Goettle then shifted attention to an above-ground fuel tank. The church currently has an underground oil tank. It was last inspected in 2011 and was in good shape. However, they are unsure of the install date and of the size. They believe it is 1,000 gallons. Due to the unknowns, the church would like to remove the tank. They have been quoted \$3200 to remove. Because of the configuration of the church basement and the size of the tank needed (400 gallon German double walled tank is the largest that will fit), it may not be feasible for there to be an oil tank in the basement. They are contemplating having an outdoor tank, either oil or propane, in the far corner of the property near the wood line. Mr. Davis commented that in a previous case, the Commission required a lattice fence on two sides and that solution worked out well. Mr. Goettle shared that they are thinking of logistical issues as well, including the septic and location to building (shoveling). He mentioned that the accesses to the septic are by the stairs and blacktop. Mr. Goettle wanted to know what options the church had. The Commission recommended fencing around any above ground tanks and requested that church return when they have finalized their proposal.

Roger Schrenk and Chris Fultz – to permit roof mounted solar energy system at 50 Collins Pond Road. [Map 29, Lot 24 – Residential District]

Mr. Fitzwilliam welcomed Simon Gray, representative from Green Energy Options, to the meeting. Mr. Gray presented on behalf of the property owners. He explained the solar system would be mounted on the barn roof and will be partially visible from the street. The metal roof is black stranding seam and the panels and frames will be black as well. The barn is 60 feet to the edge of the road. The roof orientation is north to south, but the panels will only be installed on the south side portion of the roof. The target install date is the third week in May. It was noted that the barn is new construction.

Mr. Fitzwilliam commented that the application strengths are that the solar panels will not be on a historic structure and the property is on the edge of the historic district. Mr. Morse felt that the property is still within the historic district and aesthetics must be taken into consideration. However, he is okay with this proposal. Mr. Heroux agreed with Mr. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Morse.

Mr. Heroux motioned to permit installation of a roof-mounted solar energy system at 50 Collins Pond Road (Map 29, Lot 24 – Residential District) with no conditions. Mr. Fitzwilliam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Heroux; Morse]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Minutes Review

Mr. Heroux motioned to approve the minutes of November 10, 2022 as amended. Mr. Fitzwilliam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Heroux; Morse]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Amendment: add “permanently installed” to differentiate between temporary and permanent installed generators.

Old Business:

Solar: Mr. Morse relayed to the Commission information from his personal research about solar. He feels it is a negative, especially in regards of pollution. There is an existential threat beginning around 2030 from the discarded panels.

Guidelines: The Commission deferred discussion to the next meeting. They asked the LUC to provide an updated draft version for the Commission to review.

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

Yes: 4 [Fitzwilliam; Davis; Heroux; Morse]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Nolan

Land Use Coordinator

Minutes approved as written on March 9, 2023.