

## **MILTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Milton Public Hall**

**538 Milton Road**

**Regular Meeting**

**June 15, 2022**

**7 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order:** C. Bramley, Chairman, opened the meeting at Milton Public Hall at 7:02 p.m. Present: C. Bramley, D. Dowden, C. Mitchell, and M. Forbes. Also present Heather Rutecki Guggenthaler.

### **Continued Public Hearings – opened at 7:03 p.m.**

The legal notice was published in the Waterbury Republican American on 5/11/22.

**2. Application #353** Julia Schillinger, 557 Milton Rd. hedgerow entry gate.

The earlier 6-15-22 Special Meeting discussion was paraphrased for the public hearing. Drawings of the 2 proposed gates to be installed at the property line surrounded by arborvitae hedging and replacing the former picket fence, were described and reviewed. Commissioners agreed the gate design appropriate for the property in the Milton Center village but stated the hedging height needed to be in proportion to the height of the gates. It was also noted the Commission suggested the gates not be installed until the hedgerow had grown in width to fill in the substantial amount of space between the shrubs. Holding off on the installation of the gates would allow the plantings to resemble a hedge.

Public Comment: H. Rutecki Guggenthaler, neighbor at 556 Milton Road, had no issue with the gates proposed but spoke regarding the height of the hedging. She expressed concern the arborvitae would be tall thus blocking visibility of the house from the street. Commissioners stated the height of the hedging was discussed with J. Schillinger, applicant, during the site visit and the Commission will state the hedge needs to be consistent with the character of the village center with the hedge height being of a scale that relates to the height of the gate posts.

With no other public present to comment, D. Dowden moved the hearing be closed at 7:06 pm, C. Mitchell seconded and unanimously carried.

D. Dowden moved to approve Application #353 for two gates within the hedgerow of arborvitae as presented with the requirement the height of the hedge maintain the same character as streetscape fencing within the village and be proportionate to the height of the gate posts due to the hedging being replacement of the longstanding removed picket fence. The motion was seconded by C. Mitchell and unanimously carried.

**3. Approval of the Minutes - Regular Meeting May 18, 2022**

C. Mitchell moved and M. Forbes seconded a motion to approve the 5/18/22 minutes. The motion carried unanimously with D. Dowden abstaining.

**4. Old Business** - It was noted that D. Restivo has resigned with her move to Colorado. D. Dowden suggested the Commission send a letter to Steven and Claudia Kalur regarding their house and accessory buildings that were given Building and Zoning Permits without the required Certificate of Appropriateness. It was suggested an after the fact application be requested of the Kalurs. The Chairman will draft and send a letter.

**5. New Business** – A notice of violation was sent to Heather Rutecki (Guggenthaler), 556 Milton Road, on May 20, 2022 when it was observed fencing was being installed between the house and the barn on the easterly side of the property. After confirmation the fence could be seen from the road by two commissioners, a letter was mailed. Correspondence from H. Rutecki disputing the visibility in response to the notice is in the file. Commission members were asked to look at the property on the walk to the Special Meeting site visit.

After looking at the property, it was noted by Commissioners the fence could not be seen due to vegetation. There was discussion with H. Rutecki as to seasonal visibility of structures. It was explained the policy of the HDC is to look at visibility of structures as if the vegetation did not exist since vegetation can come and go. H. Rutecki stated the language of the Statute is unclear as to seasonal visibility of structures and disagreed with the Commission's interpretation of the Statute. It was agreed the fencing cannot currently be seen and the notice of violation will be rescinded with H. Rutecki being sent a letter confirming no current violation exists.

**6. Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. on a motion by C. Mitchell, seconded M. Forbes and unanimously carried.

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Carol Bramley, Chairman

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Date