

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Historic District Commission and the Historical Commission

PUBLIC HEARING

Date: February 6, 2014

Commission Members Present: Bob Clark, Chris Mandel, Nancy Allen, Lynn Shaw

Commission Members Absent: None

Others present: Henry Woolsey, Jordan O'Connor, Chuck Berube, Ari Pugliese, Stephen Kieras

Attachments: Public hearing posting and legal notice

The Public Hearing regarding an application to install an exhaust fan on the south facade of the Country Store was held in the Petersham Memorial Library and began at 7 p.m.

Nancy opened the hearing by reporting that legal notices had been properly posted and abutters were notified. She explained that the application had been received at the HDC regular meeting two weeks prior and that the Commission expected to receive additional materials.

Ari explained that in the interim period he had spoken with the installer who advised that a model that was slightly smaller was available. This new model has a slightly smaller circumference and would protrude a slightly less distance from the wall. This model also could be painted white. Stephen Kieras, the contractor, confirmed that painting the fan white could be done before installation.

The initial discussion focused on safety issues with the applicants emphasizing that an internal duct would potentially pose a fire hazard. When pressed on the matter, they conceded that any installation would be required to meet the fire code (just as the duct in Ari's Barre restaurant must). The applicants also were concerned that the maintenance of an internal duct would be difficult, costly and potentially problematic.

The Commission requested an explanation for why the applicants rejected alternative sites on the building for the fan installation and after lengthy discussion, it was stated that no other site would meet the clearance requirements (particularly the east end of the building). The unwillingness of the applicants to relocate the kitchen to any other place inside the building prevents the possibility of a north wall installation.

The applicants noted the Commission's concern that the south wall of the Country Store was becoming increasingly compromised. They restated their intention to renovate the window trim whenever they paint the exterior. They also noted the Commission's concern about the exterior AC unit that sits next to the south wall, but they were unwilling to voluntarily commit to either screening or relocating the unit. The applicants agreed that the exhaust fan could be centered between the two existing windows.

The Commission vote unanimously to approve the application with the following conditions:

1. That the model be the smaller exhaust fan (Directdrive Upblast).
2. That the fan be painted white
3. That the fan be centered between the two existing windows as much as possible.

A Certificate of Appropriateness will be written and sent to the applicants so they can move forward with the project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Mandel, Clerk

To Athol Daily News – Submitted for publication:

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Petersham Historic District Commission

Public Hearing Notice

The Petersham Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at Petersham Memorial Library, 23 Common Street, to review an application for proposed changes to architectural features of the exterior of the Petersham Country Store, 2-4 North Main Street, so as to install a kitchen exhaust fan at the south side exterior wall.

Signed,
Nancy Allen
Chair, Historic District Commission
January 28, 2014

ADN Bill to:

Town of Petersham
Petersham Historic District Commission
2 South Main Street
P.O. Box 486
Petersham, MA 01366