



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Historic District Commission**

*William Childress, Chairman  
Barbara Harms, Vice Chair  
Jan Furman, Secretary*

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
860-395-3131

*Diane Aldi DePaola  
Laura Gray  
**Alternate Members**  
Richard Peters  
Alan Cantor  
Paul Knierim*

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Hybrid Meeting  
Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room  
302 Main Street

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman W. Childress called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present** – William Childress, Barbara Harms, Jan Furman, Laura Gray, Alan Cantor (seated), Paul Knierim (not seated).

**Members Absent** – Diane Aldi DePaola, Richard Peters

**Staff Present** – Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; C. Maharbiz, HDC  
Recording Clerk

**Others Present** – Erin Sliva, Robert Laurie

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**A. Minutes** – 1/18/22

In the last sentence of Section III. C. for Committee, Representative and Staff Reports, members discussed replacing the word “can” with the word “must” so the sentence reads as follows: “Going forward if it is private safety, an applicant must come see HDC.”

<p><b>MOTION</b> to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 18, 2022, as amended; <b>Made by:</b> B. Harms; <b>Seconded by:</b> J. Furman; <b>In Favor:</b> W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, L. Gray; <b>Opposed:</b> None; <b>Abstained:</b> A. Cantor. <b>APPROVED:</b> 4-0-1.</p>
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**B. Correspondence**

B. Harms shared a letter received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County Board of Directors for a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for use on the Ghost Sign Restoration Project.

**C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports – None.**

**IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Certificate of Appropriateness as to Exterior Features** to replace an existing attic window with a fan lite window.

69 Cromwell Place (Map 32/Lot 56)

*Applicant/Agent: Robert & Tamara Laurie*

**ACTION:** *Filed 1/25/2022; open public hearing, decision by 3/15/2021 (NLT 3/30/2022).*

**MOTION** to open the public hearing; **Made by:** J. Furman; **Seconded by:** L. Gray; **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, L. Gray, A. Cantor; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Applicant Robert Laurie stated that during their renovation, he and his wife noticed that the attic window is not original to the house. There is a carve out in the shape of a fan light window where the attic window is located. Following the track of the carve out, they recreated the measurement and Exhibit A shows the fan light that they would like to install. Exhibits B and C show the outline of where the fan light was located in the attic. The applicants are requesting approval to replace the attic window that is currently installed with a fan light window that they believe was previously at that location and which will resemble the fan light window above the front door.

A. Cantor asked if the applicants have pictures of the front of the house that are historically accurate. Robert Laurie responded that he does not. He has been to the Historical Society and has been unable to find good pictures. He also stated that he found a fan light cover in the basement, which is too big for the fan light above the front door.

W. Childress asked if the material of the new window will be wood. Robert Laurie responded that it will be made of pine wood with no synthetic material. W. Childress then asked what “clad” referred to on the frame, which Mr. Laurie responded he was not sure what the word “clad” referred to in the application materials, but that the window will not be synthetic. W. Childress commented that there are fan light windows in the neighborhood, and they are appropriate to the neighborhood.

A. Cantor asked if the applicants plan on placing the fan light window in the same place as shown on Exhibit B to which Mr. Laurie responded affirmatively.

**MOTION** to close the public hearing; **Made by:** B. Harms; **Seconded by:** J. Furman; **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, L. Gray, A. Cantor; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve Certificate of Appropriateness as to Exterior Features to replace an existing attic window with a fan light window, 69 Cromwell Place; **Made by:** B. Harms; **Seconded by:** J. Furman; **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, L. Gray, A. Cantor; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Historic Ghost Sign Update

B. Harms stated that with the grant received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Commission has received just short of \$15,000 for the Ghost Sign. She has not yet heard from the Rotary Club. Erin Sliva explained that the three images she prepared of the Ghost Sign includes (1) with only the words that are known; (2) a mockup of the sign that includes the logo of the buggy and mentioning prompt delivery; and (3) a mockup with no graphic and just text. She explained that in order to fit the graphic of the buggy, the words have to be shuffled around and will no longer be accurate to where those words are located. The image with just the words and no logo has the words placed closest to their true location. B. Harms suggested using just the image of the man carrying a box rather than the entire logo with the buggy. Erin Sliva stated that she pulled words to fill in the sign from historical descriptions, specifically the interview with Fred Stokes post retirement, and a paper bag advertisement. She will prepare a mockup of the sign with just the man. Decision made to have B. Harms and Erin Sliva work together to finalize the image and reach out to Cannings for a proposal. L. Wacker asked if the grant received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex must be used by a certain time. B. Harms explained that it must be used within a year, but that it can be extended through the filing of an additional application. P. Knierim mentioned Preservation CT, an organization in Hamden, as a possible source for additional grant money. Erin Sliva showed a sample of the image she designed for the tote bags she will be selling as a community fundraiser.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. until the next regular meeting of Tuesday March 15, 2021, **MADE by** J. Furman; **SECONDED by:** L. Gray; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, L. Gray, A. Cantor; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.