



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Historic District Commission

*William Childress, Chairman
Diane Aldi DePaola, Vice Chair
Jan Furman, Secretary
Mary Kennedy
Barbara Harms*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

Alternate Members
*Eugene Creighton
Richard Peters
Vacancy*

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: W. Childress, M. Kennedy, J. Furman, B. Harms (via phone), E. Creighton (seated for D. Aldi DePaola). Also present, B. Girty, Agent, Steve Hallahan, Contractor and A. Merritt, HDC Recording Clerk.

Absent: D. Aldi DePaola and R. Peters.
There were no other members of the public present.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – 12/17/19 – meeting minutes were approved.

J. Furman made a motion to **Approve** the December 17, 2019 minutes. **Seconded** by: G. Creighton **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, E. Creighton, **Opposed:** None, **Abstained:** M. Kennedy, **APPROVED:** 4-0-1.

B. Correspondence - None.

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports – None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - W. Childress continued the Public Hearing which was initiated at the 12/17/19 meeting.

A. Certificate of Appropriateness as to Exterior Features—Fence Modification
91 North Cove Road (Map 32/Lot 1)
Applicant: Russ & Fran Warren, owners Agent: Brooke Girty
ACTION: Received 12/6/19. *Open public hearing; continue or close.*
Consider and act by 1/21/20 mtg. (65 days from receipt = 2/8/20).

The applicant seeks approval of a change in the location of the proposed pool fence and a change in the fence material from wood to metal chain link. With the site plan, B. Girty described the proposed

revised pool fence location relative to the house, retaining wall, pool and water view. Gate matches fence style that was approved. A hedge covers the fence. W. Childress explained that the Commission does not consider landscaping. B. Girty explained that the fence material was changed to metal due to concern of wood rotting when engulfed in the greenery. Metal fence was not approved. Brooke reviewed the Historic District’s criteria and felt that the intent of the criteria was met with the simplicity & subordinate to the structure. W. Childress reinforced the Criteria’s specific provision of avoiding chainlink fencing. B. Girty confirmed that she was aware of that criteria. B. Harms inquired if other sorts of materials were considered, as neighbors have used. Discussed the concerns of the privet greenery thinning over time, therefore exposing the chainlink. J. Furman expressed concern of setting a precedent allowing chain link which does not fit the Historic District, B. Harms concurred. There was discussion about a variety of other acceptable materials used by neighbors. E. Creighton expressed an appreciation for natural materials. W. Childress distributed copies of the criteria for all to review. B. Girty said they assumed the greenery would make the fence acceptable. B. Harms made the point of ‘assuming it is fine to install non compliant fence, does not make it fine. S. Hallahan commented that the owners and architect intended to install a quiet, rot resistant material that would be in keeping with the Historic District. Had also talked with neighbors across street. Adding that hiding the chain link in the greenery would successfully present the appropriate cleaner appearance. A wood fence would be a dominating feature on the property. W. Childress and B. Harms reconfirmed that the location of the fence is not an issue. E. Creighton inquired maybe only vegetation as a barrier. It was confirmed that would not be approved as a pool barrier.

J. Furman made a **motion** to approve the relocation of the fence. **Seconded** by B. Harms, **In Favor:** W. Childress, J. Furman, B. Harms, M. Kennedy, E. Creighton, **Opposed** by None. **Abstained:** None **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

J. Furman made a **motion** not to approve the proposed change in material of the fence. **Seconded** by B. Harms, **In Favor:** W. Childress, J. Furman, B. Harms. **Opposed** by E. Creighton, **Abstained:** M. Kennedy **DENIED:** 3-1-1.

M. Kennedy made a **motion** to close the public hearing. **Seconded** by J. Furman, **In Favor:** W. Childress, J. Furman, B. Harms, E. Creighton, M. Kennedy. **Opposed:** None, **Abstained:** None **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

V. **NEW BUSINESS** - None.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** 7:34pm

M. Kennedy made a **motion** to Adjourn the meeting until the next Regular Meeting **Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 302 Main Street; Seconded** by J. Furman, **In Favor:** W. Childress, J. Furman, B. Harms, E. Creighton, M. Kennedy, **Opposed** by none; **Abstained** by none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Merritt, Recording Clerk

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook