



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Historic District Commission**

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

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)

**Alternate Members**  
*Eugene Creighton  
Richard Peters  
Alan Cantor*

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**  
Via Online Meeting Room

I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Present: W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms, D. Aldi DePaola, A. Cantor, J. Furman, and R. Peters.

Absent: E. Creighton

Also Applicants: Paul Knierim & Gregory Nickett, Peter and Faye Bisson, agent Denise VonDassel and A. Merritt, Recording Clerk.

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Minutes**

**MOTION** to approve the August 18, 2020 minutes by B. Harms; **Seconded** by W. Childress; **In Favor:** W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms; **Opposed:** None.  
**Abstained:** J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola. **APPROVED:** 3-0-2.

B. **Correspondence** - None

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

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Preservation Initiative—Historic Signs Restoration** - B. Harms presented the fundraising initiatives to date: The project team had a meeting this month. There was also a project team meeting with the town Director of Finance. The project fundraising campaign launched and was posted to Facebook. An appeal letter was mailed to residents and businesses. Town funds will pay for the \$540.48 mailing expense. Electronic signs around the town will announce the fundraiser. Press releases were sent and Events Magazine informed. \$1550 raised as of today with a goal of \$25k by November 9. W. Childress suggested the commission to participate in the fund raiser to show support for this initiative.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Certificate of Appropriateness as to Exterior Features** to remove remaining brick veneer & replace with cedar clapboard siding on base of house, shingle siding on gable end. Replace shutters with composite batten style and add a composite trellis above each of the two north facing first floor windows.  
142 North Cove Road (Map 32/Lot 60-6)  
Applicant: Paul Knierim & Gregory Nickett Agent: Denise VonDassel, Architect

W. Childress opened the public hearing.

D. VonDassel presented elevations and photos of the 1985 home illustrating where the brick veneer is falling off due to water erosion. All brick (two walls) to be replaced with clapboard, gable end to be shingles, and install composite shutters. On the street side, trellis to be installed above two windows and screen panels on porch to be replaced. The Commission asked for clarification of screen replacement. Denise provided example photos of the trellis design. W. Childress highlighted that this house is not a contributing house. The owner highlighted that these changes will be more in keeping with the traditional look of the neighborhood.

Upon calling for questions and additional comments from the public or any others in attendance, hearing no response, W. Childress closed the public hearing.

**MOTION** to approve the applicant's exterior feature changes, as presented was made by B. Harms; **Seconded** by D. Aldi DePaola; **In Favor:** W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola; **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**B. Certificate of Appropriateness as to Exterior Features** Installation of a generator, propane tank, and relocation of AC condensers plus screening. New door at rear of garage in lieu of previously approved window.

141 North Cove Rd. (Map 32 / Lot 4)

Applicant: Peter and Faye Bisson

Agent: Denise VonDassel

W. Childress opened the public hearing.

D. VonDassel presented photos of the home from the cove side of the house including visuals of the retaining wall where mechanical equipment is currently located and where the door is to be installed. The shed and current air conditioners will be moved over slightly to accommodate the installation of a generator and propane tank. With a 5' clearance from the generator, a door is to be installed off back of garage for convenient access to the mechanical equipment. There was mention that the area below the retaining wall is in the flood plain.

J. Wren presented layout plans illustrating the current layout in black ink and changes to be made in red ink. The changes in discussion are not on the street side of the house. The location was selected to meet code requirements, including floodplain consideration and concealing the machinery from open view sightline from the cove. Greenery to be planted as a screen from view on the river side. W. Childress highlighted the regulation preventing The Commission from considering landscaping solutions. The Commission made suggestions for alternative screening options, including the idea of lattice to match the lattice currently in use at the home for the homeowner to consider.

W. Childress noted a typo in #9 of the construction notes. The tank is indicated as 'under ground,' which it is not. The tank is above ground.

Questions from the public were heard and addressed. Upon calling for any additional questions or comments from the public or any others in attendance, hearing no response, W. Childress closed the public hearing.

J. Furman reconfirmed that the lattice screening, or other non-landscaping option, would be a condition of approval. D. Aldi DePaola agreed.

**MOTION** to approve the applicant's exterior feature changes with the addition of propane tank screening using lattice work to match lattice currently in use at the home and correction to construction note #9/propane tank is above ground, was made by B. Harms; **Seconded** by J. Furman; **In Favor:** W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola; **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

### C. Petition to Amend Historic District Regulations

Proposed Revisions to Historic District Regulations Section 5 regarding Expiration of Certificates of Appropriateness.

*Petitioner: Old Saybrook Historic District Commission*

W. Childress opened the public hearing.

W. Childress explained the change was necessary due to the fact that currently there is no expiration mandated on application approvals. W. Childress read the proposed amendment and asked for questions and comments.

Questions from the public were heard and addressed. Upon calling for any additional questions or comments from the public or any others in attendance, hearing no response, W. Childress closed the public hearing.

**MOTION** to adopt the amendment to regulations as written with an effective date of October 9, 2020 by D. Aldi DePaola; **Seconded** by J. Furman; **In Favor:** W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola; **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

W. Childress informed the Commission of an invitation from W. Harms for a walking tour. B. Harms informed The Commission of the background to the walking tour plans. Date for this tour to be determined.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting until the next Regular Meeting of **Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, was made by M. Kennedy; **Seconded** by J. Furman; **In Favor:** W. Childress, M. Kennedy, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola; **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Merritt, Recording Clerk