

Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission

May 4, 2023

DRAFT: Minutes

Present: Lisa Johnson (Chair), Bob Hoffman, Ann Vibert-Wuelfing, Barbara Marsh, Steve Meyer (alternate), Garrett Daigle (Assistant Town Planner), Edward Giannaros (Town Council Liaison), and Rose Ponte (Economic Development Director)

Absent: Matt Ross, Kelley Schaedler (alternate), Rachel Griffin (alternate)

The following members were present on-line: Lisa Johnson, Ann Vibert-Wuelfing and Steve Meyer. Edward Giannaros (Town Council Liaison) All other representatives were present in person in the Town Council Chambers.

Lisa Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Public Hearing

1761 Farmington Avenue – Replacement of porch framing and decking, and lattice.

At the previous meeting, the applicant had discussed with the commission the need to replace the existing wood lattice that had deteriorated with plastic lattice, painted to match the existing home. The commission discussed the material and determined it to be a suitable replacement.

There were no public comments in favor or in opposition to this application.

Upon a motion made (Marsh) and seconded (Hoffman) the application was unanimously (5-0) approved with conditions, as presented and on file in the Planning Department.

Conditions

1. Orientation of the lattice shall match the existing.

Discussion on Municipal Cultural District:

Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director, has been exploring the establishment of a cultural district in the Town of Farmington. Rose gave a presentation on cultural districts, including the process for establishment and timeline. In 2019, the Connecticut Legislature adopted a state statute permitting cultural districts, districts require at least 1 public meeting, a resolution from the Town Council, and an advisory board to oversee the district. Garrett Daigle, Assistant town planner, has been working with Rose to determine the limits of a district, however Rose and Garrett could not include both Unionville and Farmington villages in one district. Rose spoke with the representative from the Greater Hartford Arts Council, and towns are permitted to have multiple cultural districts, one for Unionville and one for Farmington.

The commission members asked a few clarifying questions and agreed that two districts would be an ideal fit for Farmington.

Approval of Minutes:

April 13, 2023, Minutes with corrections – M/S/A Meyer / Hoffman / all, 5-0

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Other business

None

Walking Tour – Lovely Street

The tour will take place on June 11th from 2:30-4:30 p.m., approximately every half hour. Matt Ross and set up a site on signup genius for people interested in participating in the tour. Lisa Johnson and Barbara Marsh had prepared a press release for the tour, and a letter to the home owners on Lovely Street to notify and invite the on the tour. Garrett will handle the press release and mailing, and work on a flyer for sharing.

Stephen Meyer asked for assistance from the Commission members the week prior to the tour to help the Unionville Museum set up the exhibit.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm M/S/A Hoffman / Marsh / all (5-0)