

FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING

November 19, 2024

Present for the hybrid meeting were Chair Bombara, Commissioners Calciano, Lawson, Mix, Phelan and Alternate Commissioner Gemski. Town Planner Rutherford and Clerk Michaud were also present. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present in the Council Chambers were Town Planner Rutherford, Clerk Michaud, Chair Bombara, Commissioners Calciano, Lawson, Mix, Phelan and Alternate Commissioner Gemski.

Alternate Commissioners Sanford and Purtill were absent.

Secretary Phelan read the legal notice into the record.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

James Calciano – 13 Church Street, Unit 1

Commissioner Calciano recused himself from this matter and left the room. Alternate Commissioner Gemski was appointed to participate in Commissioner Calciano's place for this matter.

Application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install wrought iron railing on steps to the parking area at 13 Church Street, Unit 1. Town Planner Rutherford presented the request to install a wrought iron railing on steps to the parking area at the end of his walkway. The 38" high, 4' long railing will be secured by being drilled and grouted into the steps. The Commission did not express concern with the proposed railing.

Jon Estrellado, 13 Church Street, spoke in favor of the application.

Martha Cheshire, 22 Mountain Road, spoke in favor of the application.

The public hearing closed at 5:06 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Phelan/Lawson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the James Calciano application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install wrought iron railing on steps to the parking area at 13 Church Street as presented and on file in the Planning Office.

Michael & Martha Cheshire – 22 Mountain Road

Application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install wrought iron railing at front porch steps and driveway steps for property located at 22 Mountain Road. Mr. Cheshire stated he and his wife would like to install a wrought iron railing for their front porch steps and the driveway steps. The style of railing will match existing railing at their back steps. The Commission did not express concern with the proposed railings.

There was no public comment in favor or in opposition to the application.

The public hearing closed at 5:10 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Lawson/Calciano) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Michael & Martha Cheshire application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install wrought iron railing at front porch steps and driveway steps for property located at 22 Mountain Road as presented and on file in the Planning Office.

#### St. James Episcopal Church – 3 Mountain Road

Application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to replace sign. Robert Sudell presented the request to modify the existing sign by adding an 8” x 54” panel below the main panel as shown. This new panel recognizes that St. James Episcopal Church has merged with St. Mark’s Ministries of New Britain. Commissioners asked for confirmation the material and style will remain the same as the existing sign and that this is not a full replacement for the existing sign. Mr. Sudell confirmed this is not a full replacement, only the sign panel is being added to the bottom of the existing sign.

There was no public comment in favor or in opposition to the application.

The public hearing closed at 5:13 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Lawson/Phelan) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the St. James Episcopal Church application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to modify existing sign at 3 Mountain Road as presented and on file in the Planning Office.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Meeting Schedule

Adopt the 2025 Farmington Historic District Commission Meeting Schedule.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Calciano/Phelan) it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the 2025 Farmington Historic District Commission meeting schedule as presented.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### 14 High Street

The Commission inquired about the replacement of a door at 14 High Street. The homeowner received approval to replace the door, but the new door does not appear to comply with the approval. Staff will look into this and provide an update.

General Questions

The Commission asked general questions regarding temporary fence installation for the purposes of toddler play areas, and temporary canopy / tent installations in rear yards. Town Planner Rutherford explained the typical review process in both instances and also discussed the typical yard enjoyment of residential properties.

**STAFF REPORT**

Election of Officers

Reminder that the Election of Officers will take place at the December meeting.

Study Committee

The Expansion Report is underway, and Assistant Town Planner Daigle is working through the process of gathering historic information for 1 Mountain Spring Road. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

**MINUTES**

September 17, 2024 Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Lawson/Calciano) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the September 17, 2024 Farmington Historic District Commission meeting minutes.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

*SJM*