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BOROUGH OF LITCHFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION 2187
Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

The Borough of Litchfield Historic District Commission held **Public Hearings** on **Thursday, December 1, 2022** at the Borough Office, 28 Russell Street, Litchfield, Connecticut. The hearings were called to order by Commissioner Julia Metcalf at 7:00pm.

Present were Commissioners Julia Metcalf, Wendy Simoncelli, Glenn Hillman, David Bernard, and Alternate Commissioners Tony Cecchinato and Norman Ambrose-Sauer.

Also present were Cassie Simoncelli, Joseph Perez, Megan Hope, and Wendy Kroll.

Ms. Simoncelli moved to seat Mr. Cecchinato as a regular commissioner for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hillman and unanimously approved.

Mr. Hillman read the legal advertisement of each hearing as published. The Chair explained the procedure for conduct of the hearings and described each application.

1. The public hearing, published November 25, 2022 in the Republican American, Application #2361, Matthew Waltz and Kelsey Leach, 128 Woodruff St., to replace front steps and railings convened at 7:00pm. The Commission reviewed the application.

There being no further members of the public present to speak in regard to the application, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:03pm.

2. The public hearing, published November 25, 2022 in the Republican American, Application #2362, Sharon Sahl, 173 Meadow St., to replace windows, convened at 7:03pm. The Commission reviewed the application.

There being no further members of the public present to speak in regard to the application, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:04pm.

3. The public hearing, published November 25, 2022 in the Republican American, Application #2363, Joseph Perez, 83 Prospect St., to add window to north side of garage and add two skylights convened at 7:04pm. The Commission reviewed the application with Joseph Perez.

FINALIZED

There being no further members of the public present to speak in regard to the application, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Hillman, Clerk

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The **Regular Meeting** of the Borough of Litchfield Historic District Commission was held at the Borough Office, 28 Russell Street, Litchfield, Connecticut on **Thursday, December 1, 2022.**

I. Call To Order

Commissioner Metcalf called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

II. Recording of Attendance

Present were Commissioners Julia Metcalf, Wendy Simoncelli, Glenn Hillman, David Bernard, Norman Ambrose-Sauer and Tony Cecchinato.

Also present were Cassie Simoncelli, Joseph Perez, Megan Hope, and Wendy Kroll.

III. Business Pertaining To Certificates of Appropriateness

1. Application #2361, Matthew Waltz and Kelsey Leach, 128 Woodruff St., to replace front steps and railings. Motion made by Ms. Simoncelli to approve the application as submitted with the stipulation that there be a matte finish on the railings and supports, seconded by Mr. Hillman. Motion carried.

The roll call vote was: Metcalf- yea, Simoncelli- yea, Hillman – yea, Bernard – yea, Cecchinato- yea. The Certificate of Appropriateness is hereby issued for work described in said application as stipulated and is valid for one year from approval.

FINALIZED

2. Application #2362, Sharon Sahl, 173 Meadow St., to replace windows. Motion made by Mr. Cecchinato to approve the application as submitted, seconded by Ms. Simoncelli. Motion carried.

The roll call vote was: Metcalf- yea, Simoncelli- yea, Hillman – yea, Bernard – yea, Cecchinato- yea. The Certificate of Appropriateness is hereby issued for work described in said application as stipulated and is valid for one year from approval.

3. Application #2363, Joseph Perez, 83 Prospect St., to add window to north side of garage and add two skylights. Mr. Hillman moved to approve the application as submitted. Ms. Simoncelli seconded. Motion carried.

The roll call vote was: Metcalf- yea, Simoncelli- yea, Hillman – yea, Bernard – yea, Cecchinato- yea. The Certificate of Appropriateness is hereby issued for work described in said application as stipulated and is valid for one year from approval.

IV. Other Business Public Participation.

A. Applications

1. Application #2364, Litchfield Courthouse LLC, 15 West St., for 1 year extension to complete the renovation and new addition work previously approved in Application #2267. The Commission reviewed the application with the Attorney, Megan Hope.
2. Application #2365, Kelli Green, 60 Gallows Lane, for replacement of roof. The Commission reviewed the application.
3. Application #2366, Valerie Chausse, 61 Gallows Lane, for replacement of roof. The Commission reviewed the application.
4. Application #2367, Zach Rosen, 180 South, to remove fence. The commission reviewed the application.

B. Other business

Wendy Kroll spoke to the Commission in response to the letter that was sent to her by HDC Attorney Byrne regarding the need to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the greenhouse structure previously installed in her yard about 4 years ago. She

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believes this structure is not permanent and therefore not under the purview of the HDC. She stated that she will move the structure 75 feet. She declines to provide an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The HDC will record this structure as a non-compliant structure and take no further action at this time.

V. Correspondence

The HDC received emails pertaining to the change of lighting along the West St. sidewalk. These letters express concern about the new installed light heads and how they are historically inappropriate and too bright.

One email, from Devin Burkhart, was previously read into the record in the Nov 17, 2022 meeting. Another email from Smith Reynolds was referenced and is attached to these minutes. There is also a post on the Facebook page for the Litchfield Republican Town Committee of CT, also attached to these minutes.

The HDC discussed that the new light heads were installed without the approval of the HDC. Julia Metcalf stated that she has been in touch with Gayle Carr, Acting Borough Warden, who has been in touch with Eversource. Eversource acknowledged their error in replacing the light heads and they said that they will replace all 13 light heads with appropriate light heads of the HDC's choice, at no cost to the Borough/HDC.

Through Mr. Hillman's research of Borough documents, it is clear that the Borough owns the lamp posts and heads.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Simoncelli to approve the Minutes from November 3, 2022 meeting with minor changes. Seconded by Mr. Hillman. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion made by Ms. Simoncelli to approve the Minutes from November 17, 2022 meeting with minor changes. Mr. Hillman seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

FINALIZED

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm on a motion by Ms. Simoncelli, seconded by Mr. Bernard, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Hillman, Clerk

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Litchfield Borough Lights Inbox x



Smith Reynolds <smithreyno@gmail.com>
to hdc, Zach ▾

Mon, Nov 28, 1:02 PM (9 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Litchfield Historic District Commission,

My husband, Zach Rosen, and I own and reside at 180 South Street within Litchfield's Historic District. We are writing to express our utter shock for the LED lights that are now lining our Town Green, Litchfield's Christmas Tree and other mismatched light posts throughout The Borough.

We are having a difficult time locating anywhere online where these changes were submitted to your Committee for approvals. Were they ever submitted or did they town just blatantly disregard the rules and processes set in place? If the latter, we would strongly suggest that you and your Committee take immediate action to swap out the fixtures to the previous fixtures that do in fact help preserve some historical elements of our town. As tax paying residents, we are dismayed at the hypocrisy that is playing out with these changes, when we as property owners must file all changes and receive a COA before any work can be done. As elected officials, the Borough Board should be not only following these rules and guidelines, but leading by example. Currently, they are doing neither. As such, we expect the HDC to hold them to the same standards as you do the Historic District residents, such as ourselves.

We have full faith in your group that you can correct these changes and instill faith in the tax paying borough residents who not only appreciate your approval processes, but rely on them to keep our town and Connecticut's First Historic District in line.

Below, you will also find the letter we wrote to the Borough Warden and Board of Burgesses this morning. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the best,
Smith Reynolds and Zach Rosen
180 South Street

Dear Borough Warden and Board of Burgesses,

My husband, Zach Rosen, and I moved to Litchfield a little over a year ago and have loved everything that the town offers to us, including the process of approvals for changes through the Historic District Commission. Our love for this process is due to the fact that it helps preserve the historical aspects of our town, which are so greatly coveted by those near and far.

When we returned to town last week after being away on business, we were quite shocked at the newly appointed LED lights installed amongst the Litchfield Town Green - and now the Town's Christmas Tree. The town removing the classic yellow lights that once lined our town and fall better inline with our historic aspects, not only cheapens the look of our beautiful hometown, but would find it difficult to believe if these changes went through the Historic District Commission's stringent approval processes. We have looked on the HDC's website and are having a difficult time locating the meeting minutes where this was proposed. If you could please share any documents of this proposal and/or approval, we would greatly appreciate it.

As Litchfield Borough residents and tax paying citizens to Litchfield and The Borough, we felt the need to speak up regarding these changes. This town prides itself on following historical elements and creating uniformity within exteriors of homes, streets and the Town Green. These LED light changes not only blatantly disregard any historical aspects, but also are mismatched throughout the Town Green and all surrounding streets. These types of lights are maybe appropriate for a Stop&Shop parking lot, but not for a small town that prides itself on historic preservation.

As the Borough Warden and Board of Burgesses, you should be leading by example of how to properly make historical edits - just as the many tax paying citizens of Litchfield Borough and the Historic District must do with our own property and homes. With our tax dollars at work, our household and many others within The Borough, do not appreciate this unwelcome change and most importantly think the lights should be changed back to the way they were with immediate effect. Should you not plan to take action, you and your committee are setting a terrible example and promoting others to not continue following the historic integrity of this town.

We hope that you will take this letter seriously and do better to not only support the historic integrity of Litchfield, but also have more respect for those who do take Litchfield's Historic Borough and Connecticut's First Historic District seriously. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see a change soon.

*Sincerely,
Smith Reynolds and Zach Rosen
180 South Street*

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1:52



facebook.com



Litchfield Republican Town Committee of CT is in Litchfield, Connecticut.



6h · 🌐

🚩 ATTENTION LITCHFIELD 🚩

Have you noticed that our historic street lights in town have been switched out?!!

The lamp heads were changed along West street in the historic business district a few weeks ago to the shock and upset of many residents and business owners.

Take a look next time you're in town- especially at night.

Litchfield was Connecticut's first Historic District. The entire District, which includes more than 475 buildings, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the Borough is designated as a National Historic Landmark District.

What happened to our historic lights?

Leave us a comment, tell us what you think.

**#lights #streetlights #historic #connecticut
#litchfieldct #litchfieldcounty #bantam
#northfield #milton #eastlitchfield**

Have you noticed that

**They were replaced
with super bright
LED's**