

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the South Kingstown Historic District Commission was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Building Official's Office.

A. Roll Call

Nunes - present
Creamer - present

Gaines - present
Garfield - present

Hamblet - present
Sheffield - present

B. Approval of December 1, 2009

Garfield moved, Sheffield seconded; motion carried: "To approve the minutes of December 1, 2009 as presented."

VOTE: Sheffield - aye Creamer - aye Garfield – aye
 Hamblet – aye Gaines – aye

Mr. Nunes noted that the next agenda item would probably involve extensive discussion and suggested the agenda be changed to review item D.1. at this time. Representatives for agenda item C.1. stated they would not object to the change.

Sheffield moved, Creamer seconded; motion carried: "To revise the agenda by placing item D.1 next for discussion."

VOTE: Sheffield – aye Creamer – aye Garfield – aye
 Hamblet – aye Gaines – aye

D. Certificate of Appropriateness

Rhonda Shumaker, SCAA Director, was present as the applicant. Ms. Shumaker provided a brief project overview to the Commission. The South County Art Association (SCCA) proposed construction of a small wood fire kiln to fire ceramics as part of their ceramics education program.

Ms. Shumaker stated the kiln would be 93” long by 65” high by 30” wide. The associated chimney will be twelve feet in height. She noted the kiln would have a post and beam structure to cover and provide protection from the elements. She further noted that proposed roof shingles will be black asphalt to match those shingles on other structures within the property.

In response to Commission members questions, Ms. Shumaker responded that a light mortar color would be used on buff colored bricks.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed 4” x 4” timbers. Members were in agreement that 6” x 6” timbers should be used in lieu of the smaller materials proposed and shown on the plans.

Garfield moved, Gaines seconded; motion carried: “To issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to the South County Art Association to install a wood fired kiln with associated structure on the property located at 2587 Kingstown Road and identified as A.P. 23-3, Lot 48 and as detailed in the application dated 2/25/10. Approval is contingent upon the following conditions.

1. Posts for the structure housing the kiln shall be 6” x 6” in lieu of the originally proposed 4” x 4” dimensions.

The Certificate of Appropriateness is granted based on the following findings.

1. The design is in conformity with the South Kingstown Historic District Commission Standards of Review.
2. Every reasonable effort will be made to provide a design that is compatible for the Kingston Historic District.
3. The design and materials to be used will be reviewed by the Commission to ensure they are appropriate.”

VOTE: Garfield- aye Nunes - aye Creamer- aye Sheffield - aye

C. Other Matters

1. Route 138 Reconstruction Project Design

Mr. Robert Smith, P.E., Deputy Chief Engineer for RIDOT was present along with Dave Craviero, P.E. of RIDOT, as well as, Bill McGrath from BETA Engineering (project consultants) and Chris DeGrave (Governor’s Office on Handicap Affairs).

Mr. Smith indicated that the 30% design has been completed and it is anticipated that 75% drawings will be available fairly soon. He noted that the 75% design will require RIHP&HC review.

Mr. McGrath provided a brief overview of the project to date. He noted that a few parking spaces will be eliminated in the area of the proposed handicap access ramp.

Discussion ensued as to whether the proposed handicap access ramp could be located further easterly. Mr. McGrath responded that the proposed crosswalk would have to be widened to provide access to both the church stairs and ramp. Commission members

recommended the crosswalk be reconfigured to terminate at the ramp which would be realigned easterly.

Discussion ensued concerning the possibility of moving the church stairs further inward and eliminating the landing that is adjacent to the existing red brick walk.

Those present agreed that an L-shaped railing fence would be needed so that pedestrians using the crosswalk could access both the handicap ramp and church stairs without conflicting with vehicular traffic.

Mr. McGrath provided a rough alternative design schematic that relocates the handicap ramp further easterly.

In response to member questions, Mr. Smith indicated that the plans to date have not been reviewed by RIHP&HC.

Mr. Smith stated that he anticipates a revised design, as discussed this evening, could be available for review within approximately two weeks. Members and staff agreed that a Commission meeting would be scheduled after the revised plans are received.

E. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

F. Comments from Members and Principal Planner

Mr. Sanford Neuschatz was present and requested the opportunity to discuss his property at 2528 Kingstown Road with the Commission and DOT staff that were present.

Discussion ensued regarding the existing sign that is located within the State right-of-way for Rt. 138. DOT staff suggested the property owner either relocate the sign onto his property and remove and dispose of the sign. The question was raised as to whether or not the sign is considered "historic".

Mr. Neuschatz and DOT representatives agreed to continue their discussion in the future in an attempt to reach some resolution agreeable to all parties involved.

F. Adjournment

Hamblet moved, Sheffield seconded; motion carried: "to adjourn."

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.