

BOROUGH OF FENWICK
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING, 9:00 AM

A Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Fenwick Historic District Commission was held using the Zoom meeting format on Saturday, July 10, 2021. Notice of the meeting was posted in a timely manner on the Fenwick kiosk and on the website.

Members Present: Matt Myers, Valerie Bulkeley, Patsy Jones, Deborah Neely, Beverly Keeney, Mike Reynolds (Alternate).

Members Absent: Scott Pulver (Alternate), Ashley Gengras (Alternate).

Others Present: Marilyn Ozols, ZEO and HDC Compliance Official, Alexa Ashton, Newt Brainard.

1. Call to order.

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. All regular members were present and seated. A quorum was established (Myers, Bulkeley, Neely, Keeney, Jones).

2. 3 Old Fenwick Avenue, map 5, lot 107. Louis & Marla Esposito, owners, and Alexa Ashton/Point One Architects, applicant. Modification application HDC21-016 to add split rail fence, lattice fencing, bluestone patios and pathway, fire pit, and retractable awning.

A. Ashton presented. She withdrew the fire pit aspect of the application but kept the seating area shown on the plan. She reviewed the proposed changes:

- split rail fence along Wilson Avenue with arborvitae next to it;
- decorative plants throughout the site (new plants are shown in green on the plan);
- large boulders and new plantings in the driveway green;
- loose placed bluestone patio and pathway close to the house;
- larger loose placed bluestone patio and lattice fence on south side;
- retractable awning on second floor balcony – green to match the house trim; photo of location provided.

D. Neely noted that it was all nicely presented in the application and members agreed.

V. Bulkeley asked if the arborvitae would be blocking anyone's view. A. Ashton responded that she did not believe so; it is across the street from the Larkin driveway and their view is to the east. They were notified of the application and did not submit any comments.

M. Myers stated that the proposed sitting area looks like it might be Belgian block which HDC discourages. A. Ashton agreed to using bluestone to match the other locations.

V. Bulkeley asked about the large rocks in the driveway green which are not encouraged. A. Ashton stated that the goal is to create something more nice and to buffer the property from the street. M. Ozols added that this location is at the edge of the Borough and the rocks also serve a practical purpose by helping to protect the area from cars that use the driveway for a turnaround.

Based on the discussion in and after the hearing, **D. Neely moved to approve the application as presented and to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for Application HDC21-016, 3 Old Fenwick Avenue, to add a split rail fence, lattice fencing, bluestone patios and pathway, and a retractable**

awning with the agreed upon use of bluestone and not Belgian block in the sitting area. V. Bulkeley seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Myers, Bulkeley, Jones, Neely, Keeney.
Against: None.
Abstain: None.

3. **27 Pettipaug Avenue, map 10, lot 21.** Peter Brainard, Trustee, owner, and Newt Brainard, applicant. Modification application HDC21-017 to address plantings at garden enclosure and replace screen door.

N. Brainard presented.

Garden. N. Brainard stated that two summers ago, HDC had required landscaping around the exterior of the garden enclosure, but planting around the entire exterior is not practical from a gardening point of view; hydrangeas have been planted on each end to block the view from each of the public ways; the west side facing the house has been left open to allow light and air to reach the garden. He added that he had reviewed other fences in the Borough, many of which are along the perimeter of the property, not on the interior of the property, and bushes are sometimes planted on the exterior of the fence and sometimes on the interior. Members noted that the goal is to make the fence less obtrusive, which can be accomplished by exterior planting or interior planting that grows through the fence.

V. Bulkeley stated that the applicant had accomplished what HDC was looking to do because the two public views are blocked. Members agreed with this and determined that the current planting is adequate.

Screen Door. N. Brainard stated that the screen door at the primary entrance to the house on the north side was originally a roll up screen that rolled into the side frame of the door; it has degraded and needs to be replaced; they are proposing to return to a more traditional screen door – a wood door with a wooden panel at the bottom to match the wooden panel on the door and a screen on top aligned with the window on the door; the door will be painted Essex green; they will likely add a board across the screen to protect it.

Based on the discussion, **V. Bulkeley moved to approve the application as presented and to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for Application HDC21-017, 27 Pettipaug Avenue, to eliminate the requirement for plantings on the west side of the garden enclosure and to replace one screen door.**

B. Keeney seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Myers, Bulkeley, Jones, Neely, Keeney.
Against: None.
Abstain: None.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** June 5, 2021.

V. Bulkeley moved that the minutes of the previous HDC meeting on June 5, 2021 be accepted as written. D. Neely seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

For: Myers, Bulkeley, Jones, Neely, Keeney.
Against: None.
Abstain: None.

5. Old Business / Other Business.

a. Update on C of A's.

M. Ozols reported that there were minor discrepancies in the final construction that she deemed immaterial: 11 Pettipaug – inconspicuous lightning rods were not shown in the drawing; 20 Fenwick – shutters were eliminated on two northwest corner windows because of conflicts with the electrical box

and a downspout; 3 Agawam – shutters that were shown on the west elevation because they were there previously were eliminated as they were the only shutters on the house.

Additionally, 11 Pettipaug enclosed the ac units with fencing to match the pool fencing even though no screening was shown on the plan; Robertson's will be planting screening by the north ac units and are coordinating with the neighbors prior to reducing the hedge height; and the metal fence at the corner of Agawam and Pattaquasset has been replaced to match what was presented for the C of A.

b. Hedge at 18 Pettipaug Avenue

V. Bulkeley stated that the stated that the hedge at the corner of Agawam and Pattaquasset was restricted to 4 feet in height and it has not been trimmed to that height. She added that the two hedges across from each other are creating a tunnel effect. M. Ozols stated that she will follow through on the hedge height with the property owner, but that the hedge close to the road was specified that way by R. Worcester who did the design.

c. Crow Silhouette – Pettipaug Avenue

V. Bulkeley noted the appearance of a black crow silhouette attached to a light fixture at the end of Pettipaug. This is under the purview of HDC.

d. 100 Sequassen plantings

V. Bulkeley noted that a number of new bushes were planted at the Keller's, but they were replacements for old bushes and had been agreed upon by both Keller and Sciamie.

M. Ozols reminded the members that the next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2021. The application deadline is Tuesday, August 24. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A special meeting will be scheduled if there is an application that cannot wait until September.

V. Bulkeley moved to add "Election of Officers" to the agenda. D. Neely seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Myers, Bulkeley, Jones, Neely, Keeney.
Against: None.
Abstain: None.

6. Election of Officers.

The current officers agreed to continue in the same positions; V. Bulkeley offered to step down if someone else wanted the position.

D. Neely moved to keep the same slate of officers for the next year: Matt Myers, Chair; Valerie Bulkeley, Vice Chair; Debbie Neely, Secretary. D. Neely seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Myers, Bulkeley, Jones, Neely, Keeney.
Against: None.
Abstain: None.

7. Adjourn.

On a motion by D. Neely, seconded by V. Bulkeley it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols, Acting Clerk