

WEST TISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: May 14, 2007

Attending: Mark Mazer, Anne Fisher, Lanny McDowell, Sean Conley, Ben Moore,
Nancy Dole

Absent: none

Also Attending: Patty Kuehn, Dave Fitzpatrick, Linda Hearn, Faith Runner, Jill Bouck.

Hearing convened at 6:00 PM.

Linda Hearn came to speak in support of Patty and Dave's proposed changes to their property and buildings. There were also letters of support from Pat and Joan Jenkinson, and Linda Benoit.

In accordance with the bylaw, Nancy did not enter into the discussion or vote, because she is an abutter.

The barn was unanimously approved as built, including all changes built that differ from the originally approved plan.

The former shed (small building) as built has many more intricate details than the plan that was approved, and all members unanimously approved the building as it is now.

Patty and Dave brought plans for the kitchen addition, which has not yet been built, and the plans were approved unanimously.

Patty and Dave submitted photos of the front of the house facing State Road, as built. The photos show significant changes from the approved plan. The photos of the bay windows showing the panels that had been constructed to replace the windows, which the HDC had specifically not approved at the previous hearing, were all approved, with Anne abstaining, as were the steps and banisters, as built. No shutters as originally approved for bay windows will be required, since there are panels where they were to have been.

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed plans for the front of the property facing State Road: a low retaining wall 18" high in front of the house on the boundary line, fifteen feet from the paved road, with 6 foot privet hedges and a spade-topped white picket fence gate with a shallow arch; a granite wall on the North side of the property nearest the Grange, where the new driveway has been constructed, which wall is to be no higher than the granite post supporting the Grange's existing picket fence at that location; no retaining wall, no hedges, and a new parking cutout in front of the small building that was originally a coal shed, for deliveries and such, 2 arbors in that area as well, and a short section of picket fence at the South end of the property after the cutout, near the Hearn's. Patty and Dave explained that they want the small building to be left visible to the road, unlike the house, which they want to shield from the neighborhood noise and traffic along the road.

Ben was concerned that the various configurations of hedges and fences and walls etc along the State Road were too disconnected. His concern was that the small building, with 2 arbors, a parking cutout, and a stand-alone short section of white picket fence, would be taking on a lot of importance, as if something was happening there unrelated to the rest of the property. Patty said she has not decided what the purpose of the small building will be. Ben proposed eliminating the arbors and parking cutout, continuing the retaining wall along the entire property, including in front of the small building, and eliminating the stand-alone picket fence. If Patty and Dave chose to have a picket fence beside the small building, Ben proposed that the fence should continue all along the front of the entire property to the new driveway, where it would end, as there will be a granite wall after that, next to the Grange.

Sean and Lanny and Mark didn't mind the parking cutout or the arbors, but did agree that the retaining wall should be continued all along the front, and also agreed that if (and only if) a section of picket fence is constructed near the small building, it be continued as Ben suggested. It was further agreed that the fence should be low, no more than 28 -34" high from the top of the retaining wall, the fence must be white, and the gate and the two arbors must be white as well. The picket fence would stop at the parking cutout, and then after the cutout continue over to the Hearn's.

The alternative to the above would be to have no picket fence whatsoever, and that alternative was Lanny's preference. There could still be a picket gate and still be 2 arbors, but if the gate and arbors were standing alone with no other fencing, then they should be painted a green that is in the trim color in order to blend in with the privet hedges.

Discussion ended, Lanny and Mark voted in favor of the revised plan, plus the alternative, Ben voted against, Anne abstained, Sean did not vote because he is the chair, and the plan was approved with conditions.

Jill Bouck came to talk about the plans to hire a consultant to update the inventory of historic properties. Nancy will contact other districts to see if they have worked with anyone they recommend, and forward the information to Jill.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Nancy Dole, Secretary WTHDC