

Historic District Commission
Special Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:00 pm
Site Walks at 57 Lyme Street and 22 Lyme Street
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

Regular members: Dini Mallory (Co-Chair), John Noyes (Co-Chair), Carolyn Wakeman, Debra Czarnecki

Alternate members: Edward Pinn

Absent: Tammy Hinckley, Russ Todd

Guests: Nina Peck, Dana Gatchek, Marie Ryan, Bill Ross

HDC members met at 57 Lyme Street, Old Lyme Children's Learning Center, for a site walk.

Call to order, Quorum call: John Noyes called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. A quorum was present.

57 Lyme Street, Old Lyme Children's Learning Center site walk: Nina Peck, architect; Dana Gatchek, OLCLC Director; Marie Ryan, OLCLC Board member

The HDC members toured the building and saw the condition of the structure. Nina Peck pointed out the rot and damage to the structure and explained that the walls and structural timbers need to be replaced. Due to the extent of the work needed, the entire building would be required to comply with current building codes.

The HDC members thanked Nina Peck, Dana Gatchek, and Marie Ryan for the tour.

HDC members proceeded to 22 Lyme Street for a site walk.

22 Lyme Street, Mergy property site walk: Bill Ross, of Sullivan Landscaping, showed the HDC members the area on the south side of the building where a new wall, patio, and fountain are being considered. There is a dense hedge of tall arborvitae trees between the edge of the existing patio and the property boundary, which screens the area from view from Lyme Street. The new wall and fountain would require that part or all of the hedge be removed. The Commission members were concerned that removing even part of the hedge would make the area more visible from Lyme Street. Mr. Ross replied that new trees or shrubs could be planted to screen the area. The HDC members thanked Mr. Ross for the tour.

The HDC members discussed the proposed demolition of the building at 57 Lyme Street. The Commission wants to make sure to exercise due diligence before making a decision and decided to ask Mary Dunne, of the State Historic Preservation Office, for advice. The Commission will also inquire about having a Circuit Rider from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation visit the site and evaluate the building.

Adjournment: Dini Mallory made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Wakeman, to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 pm. *In favor: D. Mallory, J. Noyes, C. Wakeman. D. Czarnecki. Opposed: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted: Martha Hansen, Dini Mallory, John Noyes