

## Town of Westminster Historic Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

**Present:** Barb Boulton – Chair, Peter Terrell - Clerk, Matt Sargent – Vice Chair

**Others Present:** Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager/ Zoning Admin.), Jim Matteau, and Don Anderson

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Russell Hodgkins – ZA at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Institute.
2. **Organization of the HRB :** Barb was nominated as Chair, Matt as Vice Chair, and Peter as Clerk. Peter made a motion to accept the nominations, Matt seconded, passed unanimously.
3. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
4. **Acceptance of Minutes:** This is the first official meeting, no minutes of previous meetings were available for acceptance.
5. **Communications and Public Comments:** None
6. **Unfinished Business:** None

### 7. New Business (Discussion/Action)

- A. Application : First Congregational Church of Westminster - Removal of Two Dead Trees in Front of Church. *Jim Matteau and Don Anderson represented the church and spoke why they want the two trees removed. The Power Company trimmed the east side of the trees for relief of the power lines and now the trees are showing dead wood. The concerns now are if the trees fall they will hit the church. After removal, the plans are for future plantings stated the Repls., but had no details about when or what at this point. Matt discussed concerns about cutting the maples because cutting any tree is a shame, but understood the testimony. Peter asked about the stumps? No plans for this now, but ascetically, the church thought they should go. No money has been set aside for this at this point. Matt asked about cutting just the worst tree and Jim Matteau responded that it would look uneven if one was cut and the other was left. He went on to say that the church will address the historic enhancement when new planting are considered. Barb thanked the Church for bringing this to their attention and declared that the decision will be considered in deliberative session.*

Barb brought the Board into deliberative session at 7:21 PM.

The Board came out of deliberative session at 7:29 PM. Barb made a motion to give the First Congregational Church of Westminster permission to remove the trees, but will insist that the stumps be removed and new plantings will be installed within One (1) year. Peter seconded. Discussion: *Matt expressed his concerns again about cutting the trees and stated that if he had his druthers, he would have them assessed by a specialist. Both Peter and Matt looked at the trees prior to the meeting.* The Motion passed.

- B. Violations: *TM – Explained that he received a formal complaint about a property on the flats regarding a stone wall that was built without a permit. The TM took a photo of the wall and the Board was asked to comment. Barb explained her point of view is that we have laws and ordinances to protect Vermont's heritage, as well as Westminster's and she would like to keep our historic village in compliance. We have rules and it's our job to make it fair, but still enforce them.*

Barb made the motion to have the TM write a letter to inform Cynthia Fine of her alleged violation. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

8. **Other Business:** TM expressed his gratitude for this Boards conviction and also mentioned that the Selectboard is grateful also.
9. **Date of Next Meeting:** When needed.
10. **Adjournment:** Barb moved and Peter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

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Clerk Signature

Minutes prepared by Russell Hodgkins (Twn Mgr.) (4/15/15)