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By Linda Amerighi at 2:44 pm, Oct 25, 2023

TOWN OF SHARON
Historic District Commission
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Draft until approved at the next meeting

October 23, 2023

Vice Chairman Betsy Hall called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM with the following members in attendance by roll call: Steve Szalewicz, Alt. Theo Coulombe and Alt Edwin Yowell. Both Alternates were seated for this meeting. Also in attendance: Kenneth Baldwin, Esq. of Robinson Cole, David Weinpahl PE, Bob Slagel, John Brett, and approximately 9 residents. The legal notice appeared as required in the Republican American. There was no Public Comment.

Public Hearing: 25 Main Street: The hearing opened at 5:30 with the acknowledgement of the legal. Kenneth Baldwin, representing Verizon Wireless presented the application and site plan for installation of wireless communications antennas inside existing church steeple and ground mounted equipment cabinets and generator. Antennas will be installed behind the shuttered panels/louvers on the steeple- material of those panels/louvers to be replaced with RF transparent panels. Two equipment cabinets are proposed to the rear of the existing church as well as a 50-kw diesel fueled generator as shown on the plan with proposed fencing and screening. The generator will test twice a month for approximately 20 minutes. Questions from the Commission included relocation of the proposed generator to the more rear of the property, recommendation of replacement of all panels on both levels of the steeple to assure same appearance and any proposed fencing to be of wood material.

Many members of the public spoke to the application with questions on noise levels, location of the generator, residential distances from cell antennas, health issues and property tax implications. Vice Chair Hall noted that many of the comments do not pertain to the appropriateness of this work in the Historic District, but the Commission took in all comments. Comments pertaining to this Commission and its regulations included greenery and fence screening of both equipment cabinets and generator as well as the relocation of the generator. Attorney Baldwin summarized all concerns noted with the following comments: Any fencing would be of wood material, any fencing areas would be landscaped, the generator can be relocated to the SW corner of the property and the louvers/panels will match. Motions of Szalewicz/Coulombe closed the hearing at 6:18 PM with all in favor.

Action: 25 Main Street: Motions of Szalewicz/Coulombe approved the application with the concessions noted by Attorney Baldwin along with the requirement that the louvers/panels be painted with a matte finish. All were in favor.

Commission members and the Land Use Administrator spoke to the many concerns of neighbors and will have information on the next steps in this application available for them. It is requested that the Church save the panels and louvers that are being replaced.

The agenda, as posted, was reviewed, approved and taken in order. The minutes of the September meeting stood approved as posted.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: There has been no additional information regarding the Town sidewalk project forthcoming. Mr. Yowell submitted information for Commission members, and he will forward to the Board of Selectmen.

New Business: 2024 Meeting Schedule: The 2024 draft meeting schedule with meetings set for the 4th Monday each month at 5:30 PM (unless a holiday) and no meeting proposed for December was reviewed and approved via motions of Szalewicz/Yowell.

Application to accept: None

With no other business, motions of Szalewicz/Yowell adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Casey

Jamie Casey
Land Use Administrator/Clerk

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 27, 2023, at 5:30 – Sharon Town Hall
NO DECEMBER MEETING**