

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

Municipal Office Building, Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brady called the Historic District Commission to order at 7:32 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Historic District Commission Members: Will Brady-Chairman, Steven Rossi, David Nelson, and Jack Lovejoy.

Absent: Karl Stofko and Joe Zirlis

3. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

The Commission reviewed the application regarding signage for the Pink Lotus shop on Norwich Road. The discussion centered on two signs: a freestanding sign perpendicular to the road and a smaller sign for the shop window. There was concern about the proportion of the logo and text on the freestanding sign, with suggestions that the logo might overshadow the lettering, making it difficult for drivers to read the text. The shop owner was advised to reconsider the size ratio to ensure better visibility. The window sign, which will hang inside the glass, was also discussed, with suggestions to add a colored background for better visibility. The Commission noted that non-illuminated signs inside windows are not under their purview.

Motion to approve the signage for the Pink Lotus shop on Norwich Road as described by the applicant.

Nelson/Rossi

Approved unanimously

Renovation to the front of the Goodspeed Opera House to include the installation of a handicapped accessible ramp.

An informal presentation was made by Centerbrook Architects regarding the Goodspeed Opera House project. The proposed renovations include expanding the entry steps to make them flush with the interior level, introducing an accessible ramp, and replicating the current doors to make them wider and fully handicap accessible. New light fixtures, landscaping, and additional signage were also part of the proposal. The Commission raised concerns about the type of lighting used, emphasizing the need for warm, non-glaring light that matches the historic aesthetic. There was also a discussion about the material choice for the ramp's surroundings, with a preference for granite over brick to maintain the historic integrity of the building.

The parking lot renovations were also discussed, though it was noted that this area is not under the Historic District's jurisdiction. Suggestions were made to consider permeable paving to reduce runoff and add more trees to enhance the area's appearance. The architect agreed to review these suggestions before the formal submission next month.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

General town business, including plans for future property inspections and events, were discussed.

5. Adjournment

Motion at 8:30 to adjourn

Rossi/Nelson

Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Ruth Ziobron

Recording Secretary