

# DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

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OFFICES OF PLANNING COMMISSION  
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## **DORSET DESIGN REVIEW BOARD SITE VISIT February 5, 2016**

Members present: Kit Wallace, (Chairman), Peter Palmer, Jim Clubb and Lindy Bowden.

Also present: Glenn Callen, owner, Merrill Bent, Attorney for the applicant, Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator

Minutes: R. Nawrath

Meeting started at 8:30 AM

### **Site Visit Regarding Notice of Violation at the Callen Residence 108 Church Street**

The Design Review Board gathered at 108 Church Street to meet with owner Glenn Callen regarding his property and the permit violation notice he received on 10/27/15 from the Town Zoning Administrator. Mr. Callen explained what he had done to the porch columns after the DRB approved a specific design on 5/20/15, which was ratified by the Planning Commission on 6/2/15.

- He took down the low wall on the front of the house on the porch.
- He exposed the 2 x 4s in the shingled columns.
- The columns were rotted.
- Since they had to be rebuilt, he decided to build the ones he originally wanted, not the DRB-approved plan to retain the existing columns.
- Straight Federal columns were built
- The Zoning Administrator sent a notice of violation on 10/27/15 with respect to, most notably, the new column design.
- Mr. Callen appealed to the DRB in a letter dated 12/8/15 to reconsider their 5/20/15 decision, and the DRB refused such a reconsideration.
- Mr. Callen then proceeded to box in the square columns with particle board and create some kind of a curve on the top. They measure 19" across the front face and are 14" deep. The original columns were more rectangular, being only about 7" deep, and were angled at the top in a very specific way (which can be seen in other places on the house, such as the rear porch).
- The DRB requested that work be stopped on the porch until a site meeting could occur with the DRB and the Zoning Administrator, which was how this meeting of 2/5/16 came about.

Several points were made by members K. Wallace, P. Palmer and J. Clubb:

- The Historic District has a lot of character and integrity of structure
- There was specific architectural intent in this particular structure.
- The architectural consistency in this building is part of its history.
- The angles/curve of the columns are mirrored in other elevations of the house
- The saw tooth band that was removed from the front of the building was intentional and carried around the entire house
- The pattern of the shingles plus the saw tooth trim give more detail than any other home in the village

The Permit said the columns were to remain or be rebuilt as they originally were.

The owner was to:

- Remove the infill between the columns and replace the shingles below the porch deck with lattice.
- Leave the columns as they were.
- Leave the saw tooth detail on the front and side of the building.

Much discussion followed regarding a solution to the problem. The proposed solution included:

- Reduce the overall mass of the columns
- Remove the current sheathing on all sides, removing the top and bottom trim to narrow the underlying column base structure
- Match the angle to what was originally there: the angle/curve is completed within a total of 4 shingled courses (top to bottom) with a finished column width of less than 19".
- Finished column depth of approximately 10" (now boxes in at 14" before shingles are added)
- Replace the saw tooth all around the house to where it originally was.
- Left open to further discussion was the disposition of the east and west porch ends, from which the curved shingling was removed and replaced with a very simple, squared off framing

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kit Wallace, Chairman

cc: T. Yandow, and the Design Review Board Members, G. Callen, M. Bent