

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

OFFICES OF PLANNING COMMISSION
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DORSET DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

August 16, 2021

Members present: Kit Wallace, Chair, Jim Clubb, and Michele Pagán with Ruth Tanenhaus, Alternate.

Absent: Lindy Bowden and Arnie Gottlieb

Also present: Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator; Andy Longacre (Dorset Church); Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager

Minutes: R. Nawrath

Chair K. Wallace opened the meeting at 5:32 PM **IN PERSON** at the Dorset Town Offices.

Reminder: Any decision made tonight has to wait for the Planning Commission to act on the application.

Applicant: Dorset Library: New front storm door; small rear structure to house trash cans
13 Church Street

K. Wallace recused herself and spoke to the project as a board member of the library.

- The plan is to replace the current storm door. The entrance door is ADA compliant, but the current storm door has a small metal lip which partially impedes the opening. We will take away existing lip and metal door and replace with the simple wood Ultra-Vu door, painted Essex Green.
- The second part is adding a trash can receptacle enclosure in the rear of the building near a slight indentation at the back of the building.
- It will have an asphalt shingle roof and doors and be 72' wide and 40" deep.
- The clapboards will be painted to match the building.

Criteria:

Storm door: Replacing like with like.

Minor structure added to the rear – not visible from the street, which matches building in style and color.

Jim Clubb moved we approve the application as presented; Michele Pagán 2nd

Approved: unanimously.

Applicant: Dorset Church: Amend their approved permit replacing marble façade with wood clapboards
143 Church Street

K. Wallace asked for an overview of the application. Henry Chandler spoke to the project:

- This is an amendment to the original permit.
- The original permit included replacing the south and west facades (currently painted brick) with marble.
- The church priced it out, and it was much too expensive to use the marble façade. They are now applying to amend the application to replace the brick with white painted wood clapboard (same as on other facades).

Given that we had approved such a siding material on other facades, there is no reason not to approve it here.

J. Clubb made a motion to approve as presented; R. Tannenbaum 2nd
Approved unanimously

Other business:

The air conditioning units on the west side of the Dorset Inn were installed without a permit. The units are wall mounted, with cables across the front of the Inn which are poorly encased in what looks like plastic. In a related case, a recent applicant at 3269 Rt 30 originally planned for roof and ceiling mounted AC units; however, he researched the DRB criteria and re-engineered the project to ground mount the units at the rear of the building and on the north side, where they would be heavily screened and meet the criteria.

Relevant criteria:

9.4.4.2

4. New exterior wall features, including doors...electrical and mechanical features, may be introduced only on non-character defining elevations. Such features must be located so that they do not diminish the original character of the historic wall materials.

9. Transformers, meters, pipes, and mechanical-related items must be located as inconspicuously as possible, in rear yard locations or along non-character-defining elevations. Such features should be screened from view....

It is the responsibility of the Inn to comply with the clear criteria. From a visual inspection only, it appears that the AC units do not meet the above criteria.

- Discussion followed on how to proceed with notifying the owner of the Inn.
- It is a zoning violation to install such units without a permit.

This Board would like the Zoning Administrator to send a letter to the owner of the Dorset Inn asking him to submit an application for the AC units within two weeks of the request. His installation without a permit is a violation.

Second Issue:

At Kit's request, Michele Pagán has been trying to set up a public meeting with the Dorset energy committee and various agencies of the state to discuss energy conservation and historic preservation issues in older homes. The presentation would be sponsored by the Dorset Energy Committee and the DRB.

The subjects to be discussed are energy conservation, restoration of historical residences, and sustainable building and remodeling practices

The date we are working on is September 20, the next DRB meeting. J. Clubb thought we should offer housing to those traveling from a long way. *[NOTE: After this meeting, the presenters have already alerted the DRB that this must be postponed to October 2021.]*

We will aim for 5-7 PM. Michele will come up with an invitation.

We need to advertise this well with posters plus notices in the Town's newsletter and on Facebook.

There will be three presenters: Preservation Trust staff field officer, the Director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the Director of the State of Vermont Division of Historic Preservation. It will be a power point presentation with time to answer questions from the public.

M. Pagán made a motion to adjourn; J. Clubb 2nd
Approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted.
Kit Wallace, chair