

*Historic District Commission*  
*Sherman, Connecticut*



July 23, 2012

The **Historic District Commission Special Meeting** was called to order at 8:05 PM on July 23, 2012.

Present: Janet Hopkins, Chairman, James French, Liz Mard, Alice Schneckenburger, Robin Szendy,  
Helen Bray, Clerk

Guests: Joel Bruzinski, Jan Desiato

The special meeting was called for discussion and possible action on the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for building plans by Joel Bruzinsky at his home at 4 Route 37 Center.

Jan Desiato was present for advice due to his considerable experience in restoration of old buildings.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

A C of A was requested by the Historic District Commission due to the change in materials used for the trim on the house located at 4 Route 37 Center. Joel Bruzinski explained his project and presented an application for a C of A. The project involved removal of all the old trim and replacing with PVC board material. This material can be made to exactly replace the old trim. Because the old trim was rotting it was decided to replace the sub-standard wood material with a long lasting dimensional PVC board material. Joel then presented pictures that he will e-mail to Janet and he also passed around samples of the PVC board.

The benefits of this material is that since it is man made it is consistent, every board will react the same, unlike wood. Wood trim also rots because moisture gets under it. The other major benefit is the application of proper acrylic paint will form a chemical bond with the PVC board sealing out moisture that causes rot and the painting will add to the wood effect. This trim could possibly last 25 years.

Janet first commented that the HDC has allowed the use of synthetic material, mostly at the rear of a structure. Robin pointed out that a synthetic material was used for the Old Town Hall deck. Janet expressed concern that if the HDC allows this to go forward it puts the commission in a very difficult position with any other property in the district and where does the HDC draw the line. Liz brought up the term Janet quoted from the regulations, "like material", and feels if it looks the same as natural material, such as wood, then it can be used. Joel remarked that this new material will look the same as the old and who will notice the difference. Vinyl siding is a different issue since most times it will be noticed as vinyl.

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Jim suggested this material be considered an acceptable replacement for wood within the district for trim purposes only, and it must be painted. The materials to be used should be shown to the HDC before the C of A is issued. Jan commented that if this material is properly used and painted no one will be able to tell the difference. He also feels that historic districts will have to start accepting this alternative, and better materials could come along. The quality wood, such as cedar, is no longer reliable. Only time will tell how this new material will hold up.

Jim made a motion to accept the application for a C of A for Joel Bruzinski, seconded by Liz and so moved.

Jim made a motion to approve a C of A to replace trim, using a like material, i.e., polyvinylchloride PVC board painted to produce a consistent wood like appearance. Seconded by Liz and moved unanimously.

There being no further business Jim made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Helen Bray, Clerk  
Historic District Commission