

SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING – CONTINUATION OF THE JULY 27, 2021 MEETING

JULY 28, 2021 – 9:00 (VIA ZOOM)

A Motion to Call to Order the Special Meeting of July 28, 2021 was made by Tom Callahan, seconded by Elyse Harney and unanimously **Approved**. Present: Carol Mason, Elyse Harney, Tom Callahan. Absent: M.C. Taylor (arrived after the roll call and approval of the agenda) and Robert Highsmith.

1. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by T. Callahan, seconded by E. Harney and unanimously **Approved**. T. Callahan noted (for the record) that this Commission has done a lot of work on its own, without the benefit of a full-time Town employee.

continuation of July 27, 2021 Special Meeting

COA Application #2021-008 / Congregational Church (MHR Development) / Main Street / Installation of standing seam metal roof / DOR: 06/20/2021.

COA Application #2021-009 / Congregational Church (MHR Development) / Main Street / Installation of a roof-mounted solar array system / DOR: 06/20/2021.

The Commission continued discussion of these 2 applications.

E. Harney commented that essential progress must be accepted and there are environmental issues; be realistic. She feels strongly in favor of the Church initiative.

M. C. Taylor expressed that a ‘yes’ vote by the SHDC is not doing something to a historic building that can’t be reversed. She indicated that alternative options should be pushed, if possible, with future applications to minimize visibility.

T. Callahan pointed out that the Legal Notice was posted in the Lakeville Journal so the public had been notified of these applications. He added that he had read the letters of support and noticed that there were none in opposition. He noted that he has not made a decision yet and thinks the Church has done an amazing job. The Historic District Commission is important to him and he considered many things; he applauds the Church for their sustainability initiative.

E. Harney commented that the SHDC does have a good idea of what the roof/solar will look like and cited a few examples. She noted that each application is considered individually; this decision is not setting a precedent.

C. Mason talked about a ‘bigger picture’ and that the SHDC would be taking a different position than the State on this application. She asked what is defining the decision on the Church applications, that it makes a statement that could be positive. Her question remains: How will it impose a character change to the Town?

T. Callahan acknowledged the importance of this vote and wants to keep decisions on a local level and act without the State telling them what to do. He noted that the Commission has educated itself, without help from the State.

E. Harney commented that the technology has improved and that the Church building is the structure to be protected. The Church is the history that needs to be protected and we must adapt to progress that is being made.

C. Mason asked for the logic behind a vote, not an isolated decision, so the public will know what the SHDC is thinking on these subjects. She mentioned having a workshop on the topic of solar, in the future. The Commissioners agreed, in principal.

A Motion to Approve COA Application 2021-008, Congregational Church, 30 Main Street, for installation of a standing seam metal roof on the Church Meeting Hall and Parish Hall, was made by T. Callahan, seconded by E. Harney and unanimously **Approved.**

A Motion to Approve COA Application 2021-009, Congregational Church, 30 Main Street, for installation of solar PV panels on the Church Meeting Hall roof and Parish Hall roof, was made by T. Callahan, seconded by M. C. Taylor and unanimously **Approved.**

2. **Adjournment. So Moved** by E. Harney, seconded by T. Callahan and unanimously **Approved**.