

# CITY OF GLOUCESTER

## Historic District Commission

Meeting of 5 July 2016

Members present: P. Shea, S. Miller, S. Goodick, C. Nazarian, D. Porper.  
Also present: Lillian Elwell, Darren Collins

The only item on the agenda was a request for Certificate of Appropriateness for work to be done at 31 Middle St.

Lillian Elwell, owner, and her contractor, Darren Collins explained that they wish to remove the present aluminum siding and replace it with vinyl siding. They also wish to restore the front porch to its original form as an open area, removing windows and door. They hope to save and restore the two round pillars holding it up but if that is not possible would replace with fiberglass ones.

There was much discussion and concern about approving the use of vinyl siding which has never before been approved by the commission. Properties in the District with vinyl or aluminum siding had already been sided with this material before the establishment of the Historic District. The chairman proposed dealing with the porch and siding as separate issues. No one had any problems with the restoration of the wood front porch. Commission members felt that the contractor could explore what original material/siding was on the house before being clad with aluminum. Immediately under the aluminum siding is asphalt shingle-type siding. Given the possible additional expenses, the commission feels that it might be possible to at least restore the front elevation and the right side (west facing) elevation in wood since they are the only sides visible to the street. This would keep the house consistent with its neighbors.

A motion was made by Paul Shea, seconded by Steve Miller That a Certificate of Appropriateness be granted for the restoration of front porch at 31 Middle St. to include either salvaging existing pillars or replacing with fiberglass one. Also, that contractor will investigate

the siding under the present aluminum and asphalt siding to see if wood can be restored and return with a plan.

Unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meetings was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. David Porper  
Chairman & secretary pro tem