

City of Gloucester

Historic District Commission

Meeting of 23 August 2016

Members present: P. Shea, P. Fish, C. Nazarian, S. Goodick, S. Miller, D. Porper, N. Goodick. Also present: Lillian Elwell (applicant), R. Whitmarsh (Neighbor)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Porper at 7 p.m.

The only order of business was a continuation of the hearing on request for Certificate of Appropriateness for work at 31 Middle St., viz. removal of aluminum siding and replacement with vinyl siding.

The chairman gave a brief history of the two previous meetings of June 5 and July 26 noting that the hearing was continued again to allow the commission to determine the circumstances for a Certificate of Hardship which the applicant added at the last meeting of July 26.

P. Fish gave a brief history of the property at 31 Middle St for information purposes. The chairman noted that he had received a letter from a neighbor, Salvatore J. Frontiero d/b/a Natanna LLC of 46 Middle St. supporting the application and read parts of it.

Commissioner P. Shea executed due diligence for the commission by researching the Massachusetts laws related to hardship applications, citing them and opining that the "application of vinyl siding would be a substantial derogation from the intent and purposes of MGLA C40c".

Given the many houses on Middle that have maintained or been restored to an historic look using appropriate materials, the commissioners were very wary of allowing a house to be vinyl sided. Maintaining the integrity of the properties in the Historic District is the *raison d'être* for the commission noted the chairman.

For the purposes of discussion and vote, it was moved (P. Shea) and seconded (S. Goodick) that the application for Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of vinyl siding 31 Middle St. be approved. Unanimously disapproved

The Application for Certificate of Hardship was also brought to a vote. It was moved (P. Shea) and seconded (S. Goodick) for approval. Unanimously disapproved

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. David Porper
Chairman and secretary pro-tem