

Town of Sandwich  
Historic District Commission Meeting  
May 16, 2023

Members present: Patsy Carega (co-chair), Stephanie Traibman, Fred Phillips, Bonnie Osler, Susan Gutches (zoom), Kathy Vittum (zoom); Selectman Adam Heard, ex officio

Call to order: 5:30 pm by Patsy

Approval of minutes of April 18, 2023 HDC meeting: Stephanie moved for approval, seconded by Bonnie – no objections.

New business

Application of Sandwich Children’s Center, 54 Maple St./U1-40, (1) to replace four windows and (2) to install an HVAC splitter unit in the back of the structure.

- Stephanie moved to open discussion, seconded by Kathy – no objections.
- Applicant previously sought and obtained HDC approval to replace windows in a larger and a smaller size (two in each size). It now requests that HDC approve replacement with four windows in the smaller size. After discussion, Stephanie moved to approve the application, seconded by Susan – no objections.
- Concerning the HVAC unit, Applicant explained that this unit will be placed out of public view behind the building. Further, it is Applicant’s goal to locate any future HVAC units behind the building and stack the units, but it may be necessary at some point to put a unit on the side of the building. The last choice would be placing a unit in front of the building; if that had to be done, Applicant would hide the unit behind appropriate foliage. After discussion, Kathy moved to approve the application subject to the condition that any future HVAC units in the public view be hidden by foliage, seconded by Fred – no objections.

Application of Guy T. and Cathy T. Westcott, 90 Grove Street/R12-20, to install a sign.

- Bonnie moved to open discussion, seconded by Stephanie – no objections.
- Applicant explained that the proposed sign would be wooden, two-sided, black with white lettering, hung on a metal frame either from the trunk or a branch of the maple in front of the property. The sign would likely be a bit less than 3’ by 2’.
- After discussion, Susan moved to approve the application, seconded by Stephanie – no objections.

General discussion

- New police building: Adam informed HDC that the plans for the building will be brought before HDC when the plans are ready for review.

- Banners: Co-chairs Patsy and Mallory have noted the use of banners in the town (e.g., the banner at The Porch). Patsy noted that HDC needs to get ahead of this issue, perhaps by amending HDC guidelines to cover banners (size, lighting, duration of hanging, etc.). Adam will check on relevant rules in Massachusetts and Susan will check with the National Trust. They will report their findings to HDC at a future meeting.
- Signage hangers: Stephanie noted that HDC may need to assess the appropriateness of how signs are hung (e.g., does the frame for the sign fit the historic district). HDC determined that asking applicants to provide a drawing of the sign and how it will be hung is desirable.