

Town of South Windsor

DEMOLITION DELAY COMMITTEE – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2020

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairperson Utay called the Demolition Delay Committee meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. Roll Call:

- Members present: Art Utay, Sandy Jeski, Elizabeth Burgess
- Members absent: Tim Shepard, Kevin Greer, ~~Elizabeth Burgess~~

3. Outside Participation:

- None

4. Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Meeting minutes – February 6, 2020 – approved unanimously via previous e-mails and by attendees

5. Old Business:

- None

6. New Business:

- Demolition Request: Priest Farm Outbuildings

Representing the Town of South Windsor, Ray Favreau, Director of Parks & Recreation, and John Caldwell, Parks Superintendent requested that certain sheds on the Priest Farm property be demolished due to their condition and the Town's concerns for public safety. The sheds are non-descript, and rehabilitation far exceeds any value the structures have.

The only comment received by the DDC was a letter from the Historic District Commission (HDC) requesting the shed in the best structural condition be saved. The DDC voted to allow an immediate demolition permit to be issued by the Building Department.

- Demolition Request: 1355 Ellington Road

Ray Favreau and John Caldwell requested the house currently on the property be demolished on behalf of the Town of South Windsor. The Town recently acquired the property and will be added to adjacent Town-owned park property.

The only comment received by the DDC was a letter from the HDC requesting the house be photographically documented for historical purposes. (*Addendum – pandemic concerns have delayed this activity – 24 Nov 2020*)

7. Administration

8. Adjournment

- Chairperson Utay moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM. DDC member Jeski seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Utay

March 3, 2020

Arthur Utay
Chair
Demolition Delay Committee
Town of South Windsor
1540 Sullivan Ave.
South Windsor, CT 06074

Dear Mr. Utay,

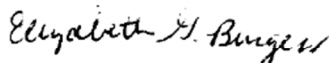
I write to you on behalf of the South Windsor Historic District Commission regarding the requested demolition of 1355 Ellington Road and the Priest Farm outbuildings.

The structure at 1355 Ellington Road does not hold architectural significance – it is not included in the Historic Resources Surveys produced through the Commission. The Commission will not oppose its demolition. We do request, however, that the building be photographically documented both exterior and interior.

The Priest Farm outbuildings illustrate the town's agricultural past in a tangible way. Future plans for the house restoration are underway and the consideration to save at least one of its wooden outbuildings in order that guests may understand a working farm setting should be acknowledged. The Commission's understanding is that the majority of the wooden outbuildings present safety concerns and should be taken down. Therefore, we request **saving the most structurally sound of these outbuildings** to 1) represent a vernacular structure within the farm yard, and 2) allow for reuse opportunities associated with the Priest house restoration. We are witnessing a period of commercialization in the Wapping area as well as a farm losses across the town. The preservation of the Priest Farm and one of its wooden outbuildings is critical to South Windsor's understanding of its past and the historic role we play today in preserving its agricultural narrative for future generations.

I urge members of the Demolition Delay Committee to save one of the Priest Farm wooden outbuildings at tonight's hearing.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Burgess
Co-chair
Historic District Commission
Town of South Windsor