NEW HAVEN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Location: Web-based meeting via Zoom

**Acting Chair Richard Munday calls to order the public hearing at 7:06 pm.**

**In attendance:** Fatima Cecunjanin (Staff to the Historic District Commission, Planner II), Laura Brown (Executive Director of City Plan), John Ward (Special Counsel to Economic Development), Trina Learned (Commissioner and Chair), Richard Munday (Commissioner and Acting Chair), David Valentino (Commissioner), Cordalie Benoit (Commissioner), Dylan Christopher (Commissioner), John Herzan (New Haven Preservation Trust, NHPT)

1. **Roll Call**

**Chair Learned reviews New Haven's Zoom meeting HDC policies and procedures and the point of New Haven's Local Historic Districts and the Historic District Commission (HDC).**

1. **Public Hearing**

**2.1 2.1 24-02-CA 17 Sea Street (MBLU: 231 0023 00100) City Point Local Historic District. Owner: New Haven Public Schools. Applicant: Dr. Madeline Negron. Seeking approval to construct an addition to the Sound School.**

***April Gaddis, Svigals + Partners***

***Jay Brotman, Svigals + Partners***

Ms. Gaddis explains that they are the architects hired by New Haven Public Schools to design an addition for the Sound School. The school is looking to increase their classroom size and the proposal is to add 1,600 square feet on their second-floor deck which will be the same height as their roof. She shows a rendering of the addition from the street view and adjacent boardwalk. The existing material of the building is CMU block but that would be too heavy for the addition’s construction. The material will be insulated green metal panels to blend with existing features. She also shows floorplans of the two new classrooms and a birds eye view of the addition. Mr. Munday asks about any mechanical equipment added with this addition. Ms. Gaddis replies that they are replacing the roof membrane and possibly existing rooftop units (which would fall under a different application). Chair Munday opens it up for public comment. There is none.

Chair Munday opens Commissioner discussion. Commissioner Learned asks about the impact on the view from Long Wharf due to the changes in massing. Ms. Gaddis replies that from I-95 you cannot see the building and most of the existing mechanical units would block the view from the water. Chair Munday adds that the addition is consistent with a building of this era and postmodern architecture.

**Commissioner Learned moves to accept the application with the stipulation that any additional changes to the roof visible from the public way be brought back before the Commission for consideration.**

**Commissioner Valentino seconds.**

**All in favor at 7:26.**

**Motion passes.**

1. **Minutes**

**Approval of March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioner Learned moves to approve the minutes.**

**Commissioner Valentino seconds.**

**All in favor at 7:27.**

**Motion passes.**

1. **New Business**

Commissioner Valentino has some neighbors complaining to him about other neighbors doing work without coming before the Commission, like someone changing their window size, because they are circumventing the Commission process. Mr. Ward explains that a building permit triggers the process with the Commission so either they did not get a permit, or they did and there is a fault in the system. Ms. Cecunjanin adds that Commissioner Valentino can pass along her email to concerned citizens. Commissioner Learned adds that someone in the past had claimed that all the work had been done and demolition materials gone only to have several wood windows on the curb a couple years later for bulk garbage pickup. There is never a good outcome with someone coming to the meeting after the damage has been done. Ms. Brown adds that City Plan has a good relationship with the Building Department so if there are concerns, staff will bring it to their working group that meets weekly.

**Commissioner Learned makes a motion to adjourn.**

**Commissioner Valentino seconds.**

**All in favor at 7:45.**

**Motion Passes.**

Respectfully submitted by Jordan Sorensen, recorder.