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MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: July 24, 2012

PROJECT: Groton Center Fire Station

PROJECT NO.: 12-635

SUBJECT: Meeting with Town of Groton Historic District Commission (HDC)

ATTENDING:

Dan Barton	Historic District Commission Chair
Laura Moore	Historic District Commission
Patricia Hardy	Historic District Commission
Maureen Giattino	Historic District Commission
Paula Martin	Land Use Admin. Asst.
Mark Haddad (MH)	Groton Town Manager
Lt. Susan Daly (SD)	Town of Groton Fire Dept.- (BC) Vice Chair
Mike Bouchard	Building Committee (BC) Clerk
Joseph Boselait (JB)	Town of Groton Fire Chief
John Perry (JP)	Gale Associates (GA)
Don Walter (DW)	Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc. (DWA)

1. Dan Barton (DB) noted that, in Groton's General By-law, he found the definition of building height to be 35' to the ridge of a pitched roof not 35' to the mid point of slope as we had been told. Further review required.
2. DB requested a site section from east to west to better portray the existing grade, proposed grade, building height and massing and relationship to existing home on the west side of Farmers Row across from the fire station site.
3. Concern was raised about the clapboard "house" imagery of the main entrance portion of the building. It was requested that we look at a singular gabled end mass in its place like the gray barn just up the street which is portrayed on our barns board. Photo attached.
4. Not everyone found the "house" imagery at the main entrance objectionable. DWA explained it was an attempt to break the mass of the building down as it faces the street and was loosely utilizing the historic "big house, little house, back house, barn strategies of vernacular farm design. That being said it was requested that we look at providing more appropriately scaled (smaller, not ganged up, sympathetic to future neighbors on the north side) windows around the building but especially on the west and north elevations. Do larger scale fenestration studies to better portray design intent?
5. Look at placing punched glazing in the apparatus bay doors in lieu of the strip windows. Also, look at installing transom panels above.
6. See if there is anyway to minimize the impact of the entry drive which is perpendicular to Farmers Row.

7. Look at strategies to mask the south side parking spaces and retaining wall from public view.
8. Perhaps accentuate the drainage swale and berm located at the west side of the site to help minimize the pavement impact.
9. Get ridge heights of other barns in the neighborhood and town.
10. The light gray color chosen after the last building committee meeting was preferred by the committee.
11. Try to develop a paving mix that is not as black as typical bituminous paving.

Need to develop the landscaping strategy but HDC like the idea of allowing the hay field to stretch across the fire station's front yard while placing plantings to block from view the "back of house" porting of the site on the east side.

12. Need to develop site lighting strategy with photometric study. Keep the site as dark as possible.
13. Next step will be to make a formal submission to the HDC. Submission will include:

- HDC Application - available at Town Clerk's office
- Site and building plans
- Elevations
- Large scale fenestration studies
- 3 d imagery as needed
- Existing site photos
- Exterior material samples - paint color, Hardy siding, roof, windows, doors, light fixtures, memorial, bituminous mix, etc
- Signage submission can be submitted separately at a later date but would be good to locate now if possible.

We will plan on attending the 9/18/12 HDC mtg to discuss our formal submission. Will need to have our submission in to the HDC by 8/31/12.

Sincerely,

DORE & WHITTIER ARCHITECTS, INC.

Architects ▪ Project Managers

Alan Brown, AIA, NCARB, MCPPO
Project Manager

Encl. Photo

c: Mark Haddad - for Dist Town of Groton
Mark Shoemaker CR Architecture + Design
John Perry Gale Associates
Donald Walter Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc.
Bruce Dillon Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc.
File

