

**MINUTES**  
**ASHLEY FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION/MARCH 9, 2023 -- ZOOM**

**PRESENT: Phil Ghi, Maggie Carroll, Sandra Preston, Lee Buttala**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31.

Buttala shared that Anne Dunn had been appointed to the AFHDC by the town and would be sworn in before the next meeting. A discussion ensued on the recommendation of potential alternates for the committee, with Carroll suggesting the town may have some suggestions.

Buttala reported that a letter had been sent to abutters of the Crawford property and that one neighbor had raised some concerns, which were based on a misperception of the location of the property. She was contacted again to see if she had any concerns once that point of information had been shared and has not responded.

The committee moved on to reviewing a design for the property of Ira and Elaine Abbott at 1070 Ashley Falls Road. The committee did not raise any objections to the design being presented but felt given the scale of the renovation, that a public hearing should be held once abutters had been notified. Ghi made the motion, seconded by Carroll, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The committee then reviewed an application from Lou Levine for a certificate of non-applicability for the replacement of rotting wooden columns on the front pilasters at his house at 261 East Main Street. The application was reviewed, a certificate of nonapplicability was nominated by Ghi, seconded by Preston, and agreed to unanimously.

The committee moved onto reviewing an application for Sallie and Todd MacKenzie of 514 Rannapo Road for the grading of a back drive with more gravel. The group thought that the action fell into a category that did not require approval as it was simple maintenance and repair. This determination was introduced by Buttala, seconded by Ghi and unanimously approved.

Lastly, the committee considered the application of Susan Norkin of 716 Rannapo Road for a certificate of appropriateness for the placement of a heat pump on the side of the house, which is currently under renovation. After reviewing the location, a motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Preston, with a recommendation that the area in front of the heat pump be screened by shrubbery, if possible. The motion passed unanimously.

Buttala motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Preston and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,  
Lee Buttala

**Town of Sheffield  
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission  
Public Hearing Meeting MINUTES**

**Date/Time of Meeting:** March 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm

**Meeting Location:** PUBLIC HEARING, Remote meeting

PRESENT: SANDRA PRESTON, LEE BUTTALA, MAGGIE CLARKSON-CARROLL, DR. RICK AND ELAINE ABBOTT, DOUG MCCLURE

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm on March 23, 2023.

The meetings for the last two meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved.

At 5:42, the Abbotts and their architect walked the commission through the renovation plans for their house at 1070 ASHLEY FALLS ROAD, citing their hope to create a house that was more accessible and had a ground floor master bedroom. They discussed the replacement of current windows on the house with more traditional windows, the addition of a side door to the house, the removal of one window on the front façade and the extension of the porch to wrap around one side of the house. They also discussed the need to reside the house with plank siding that will be more in keeping with the standards of the historic district. The commission saw many improvements to the house that would align with the standards of the AFHDC, though Buttala expressed his desire that they could keep the window symmetry on the first floor on the front façade. The Abbotts explained that the current staircase is narrow and inaccessible and that there was a need to increase its accessibility. Doug McClure felt he countered the asymmetry by wrapping the porch around the house and that it minimizes the asymmetry by leading the eye elsewhere. Buttala also asked if the new windows on the first floor on the renovated side of the house could be divided to be in more keeping with the neighborhood and the Abbotts and their architect agreed to do so.

Sandra Preston made a motion to accept the plan, with an allowance that the Abbotts will come back to the commission with their paint colors when chosen. It was seconded by Maggie Clarkson-Carroll and the vote was unanimous.

The group adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Buttala