AGENDA

TOLLAND GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. REMOTE MEETING

Public Hearings

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. 43 Tolland Green continued from 7/29/2020
 - 3.1 Consideration of Application for a COA for a freestanding sign and wall mounted sign
 - 3.2 Neighbor comments, both for and against
 - 3.3 Close of Public Hearing

Regular Meeting

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. New Business
 - 2.1 Determination of COA for 43 Tolland Green and vote thereon
 - 2.2 DOT updates
 - 2.3 Discuss Sidewalks
- 3. Miscellaneous
- 4. Adjournment

To View Meeting Materials:

See https://www.tolland.org/historic-district-commission/pages/remote-meeting-packets-audio-recordings

To Join Zoom Meeting:

If using a computer, tablet or smartphone, download Zoom app prior to the meeting.

Go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84945232582

Meeting ID: 849 4523 2582

Passcode: 09162020

Or call: 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID: 849 4523 2582

Meeting Passcode: 09162020

Public Hearing

3.1 Updated Application Materials

On Sep 10, 2020 8:44 PM, Kevin F Juber < kfjuber@gmail.com > wrote: Jodie

As requested, I have removed one of the LED flood lights illuminating the template. Please ask your commission members to view at their convenience.

Kevin Juber

On Sep 8, 2020, at 3:01 PM, mjmarz@msn.com wrote:

Perfect. Thx

On Sep 8, 2020 2:27 PM, Kevin F Juber < kfjuber@gmail.com > wrote: Jodie

I am in our NY office today and tomorrow but will remove one of the lights within the next couple of days and advise.

Kevin

On Sep 8, 2020, at 1:30 PM, Jodie Coleman-Marzialo <mjmarz@msn.com> wrote:

Hi Kevin,

Can you show us the sign with just 1 spot light? I have seen it with 2 and would like to see it with only one please before our upcoming meeting next week. Let me know.

Thanks,

Jodie Coleman-Marzialo TGHDC, Chair

From: Kevin Juber < kfjuber@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 5:47 PM

To: Jodie Coleman-Marzialo <mimarz@msn.com>

Cc: Tonja Kelly < tonjak@aol.com>; Bob Stewart < stewartappraisal@comcast.net>; Linda Juber Linda.Juber@gmail.com>; Kevin Thompson kev.thompson@comcast.net>; Christine Thompson christine.thompson@comcast.net>; Beth Stewart Stewart@aol.com>

Subject: Re: UCC Tolland Cong. Church - Proposed Sign

Jodie,

I wanted to send you an update concerning our proposed sign. As mentioned earlier, I had added the LED strip lighting to the top of the template for committee members to view. This weekend I did turn off the strip lighting and added the requested LED flood lights. Please let the TGHDC members know that the lighting has been changed and to stop by after dark to view that lighting as well.

Also, due to time constraints as we will be well into September before the next public hearing and then seeking the remaining required approvals, I did create a berm in order to allow for the final grading of the lawn areas and reseeding early this fall.

If for some unfortunate reason, the COA for the sign is still not approved after the modifications requested by the members present (size reduction, change of orientation and lighting source) the berm will be used for landscaping and the electrical for seasonal lighting. On another note, I did remove the white 4 inch PVC pipe that was protecting the electrical wire since the berm is now protecting the wire from accidentally being damaged during the regrading.

I am also attaching photos of the newly installed berm and the template lit by the request LED spots.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kevin Juber

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 9:37 AM Jodie Coleman-Marzialo <<u>mjmarz@msn.com</u>> wrote: Hi Kevin,
I will take a look this week, as I was away on vacation last week.
Thanks,
Jodie Coleman-Marzialo
TGHDC, Chair

From: Kevin Juber < kfjuber@gmail.com Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 9:41 PM To: mjmarz@msn.com < mjmarz@msn.com>

Cc: Tonja Kelly <<u>tonjak@aol.com</u>>; Christine Thompson <<u>christine.thompson@comcast.net</u>>; Kevin Thompson <<u>kev.thompson@comcast.net</u>>; Linda Juber <<u>Linda.Juber@gmail.com</u>>; Bob

Stewart < stewartappraisal@comcast.net >

Subject: UCC Tolland Cong. Church - Proposed Sign

Jodie,

In an effort to have a more informed discussion at the next meeting, I have created two CAD drawings that provide the actual dimensions and overall size of the existing sign and the proposed sign. In order to accommodate some of the relevant concerns expressed during the meeting, the proposed sign has been aligned parallel to the walkway and has been reduced in length by one foot (12 inches).

As noted on the attached drawings the overall size of each sign is: Existing sign - 17.15 square feet

Proposed sign - 16.73 square feet

I have provided all measurements along with the formulas used to calculate the respective size of each sign to ensure full understanding. I have also taken the time to create an actual template of the proposed sign so those individuals who have a harder time conceptualizing a design will hopefully now walk by the site and become more informed and not consider it a "billboard". I have also purchased the proposed "warm" LED strip lighting and mounted it to the template to assist those who were concerned that we would be lighting up the green and glaring lighting into bedrooms. I also hope there will also be an understanding of how current LED technology may be used with very little wash to the surrounding area. Unfortunately the timer was faulty and the sign was only lit for the first night; I plan on replacing the timer this weekend. As discussed during the meeting, we will only have the lighting on from approximately dusk to 11pm. I believe that is the same time that the other exterior lighting on the church parking lot and side entrance is on as well.

Our membership is very proud and attached to our church and those of us involved with the proposed sign and improving the grounds in front of the church are investing a great deal of time and effort with this project. It is disheartening and frustrating to hear citizens make such unenlightened and exaggerated judgements as were expressed during the last hearing.

There are some on our committee that have become frustrated and disillusioned with creating a new sign and have suggested we throw in the proverbial towel. I am not one and I truly hope that the members of the Historic District consider our proposed sign with an open mind and understand that both signs are of very similar size and made of similar material. I cannot think of any reason why our request should not be approved.

Should you have any further questions prior to the next meeting or feel additional information may be helpful, please let me know.

Thank you,

Kevin F. Juber

Subject:

FW: [EXTERNAL] Historic District Agenda

From: Robert Stewart <stewartappraisal@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:28 PM

To: Megan Massa <mmassa@tolland.org>; Jodie Coleman-Marzialo <mjmarz@msn.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Historic District Agenda

Megan and Jodie,

At the last meeting I requested the Historic District Commission extend our public hearing to September 16 as I am out of state and did not think I would be able to get everything together for the August 19th meeting. Kevin Juber, the guy at the meeting who will make and install the sign, has stepped up and is motivated. Our team have agreed on some changes to our original application. Therefore, we are ready for the August 19th meeting. Can we continue the public hearing then? I suggest you contact David Barnas and Dr. Sharron ____ of the Historical Society of the change in night as they were at the first meeting.

To assist the Commission, Kevin has cut out a piece of plywood the size of the sign including the posts and it is in the ground. It is in the same location as we originally proposed, but not perpendicular, rather a couple feet in from the sidewalk halfway between the two new paver sidewalks. The sign is 63 inches wide, down from 75 inches and is the same 30 inch height (plus the #45 on the top). Commissioners and public can go by and see the plywood outline anytime. He has ordered the LED warm white strip light and we will let you know when that comes in and is temporarily installed so Commissioners can see it. He will also light the sign with ground mounted spotlights so Commissioners can see both options. I will let you know when the lighting is in place.

Kevin did all this so you would be able to see the sign size and lighting, rather than looking at plans.

Please let me know if we can proceed on August 19. I will let you know when the lights are in place (we will leave each in place for a few nights so the Commissioners have a chance to see them).

Thanks,

Bob Stewart 860-604-6899

From: Robert Stewart <stewartappraisal@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:15 PM

To: Megan Massa

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: CANCELLED - TGHDC Meeting August 19, 2020 AND Updated

information

Could you please forward the following to the Commissioners:

Kevin Juber finished the second paver sidewalk at the church and made a mock up of the proposed sign and bought and installed the down LED lighting we proposed at the first meeting. This was done as Commissioners asked to see the lighting and the sign. The sign was turned so it is not perpendicular to the road, rather parellel to the sidewalk and road. It was reduced from 6 foot 3 inches to 5 foot 3 inches. It is presently in place and the light is on continually as the timer purchased at Star Hardware was defective. Kevin put the sign and lighting up late Sunday night and then left for his job in Tarrytown, NY for a few days. When he returns, and Star Hardware is pen, he will get a new timer.

To assist the Commissioners in visualizing the sign, please take a ride by both during the day and the evening / night. The sign is simply a white sheet of plywood with the size including the end posts. We are still discussing our modifications to the original sign proposal and this is option. It is not our final modification. As the sign is blank, we will leave it up for about a week. Kevin is also working on some uplight spots as the Commissioners requested and I will let you know when they are in place. Let me know if any Commissioners are away on vacation and we will leave the template sign and lights up longer.

Thanks for your work and we hope this template helps you understand our proposal.

Bob Stewart 860-604-6899

From: Robert Stewart <stewartappraisal@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 9:46 AM

To: Megan Massa

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Historic District Commission

Attachments: UCC Sign with Leaves Smaller.pdf

Megan,

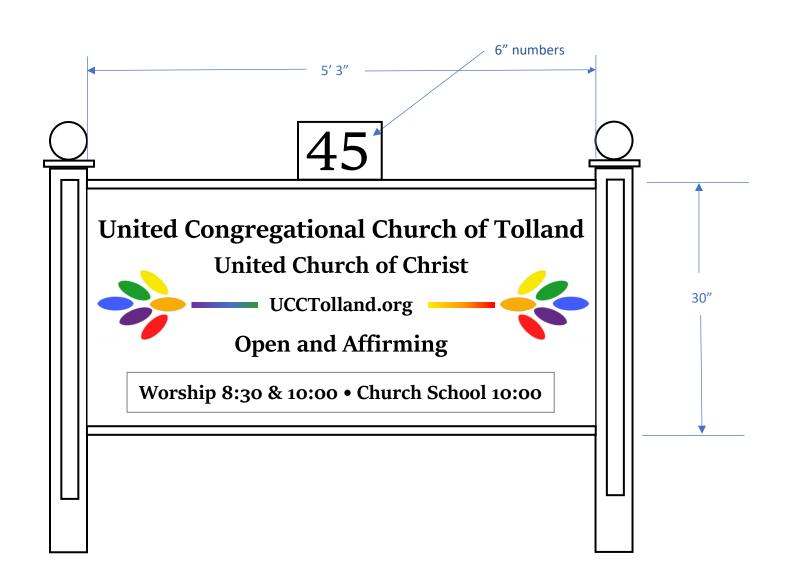
Attached is a sketch of the revised smaller sign that we are proposing based on the Commissioner's comments. Please forward it to all the Commissioners before this Wednesday's continuation of our public hearing.

I am the applicant and the address is 45 Tolland Green.

I assume you will be sending me the zoom information before Wednesday.

Thanks,

Bob Stewart 860-604-6899



Original Application presented 7/29/2020



TOLLAND GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION Application for a Certification of Appropriateness

Property Information

Property Address: 43 Tolland Green

Property Owner: United Congregational Church of Tolland

Phone Number: 860–604–6899

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Bob Stewart on behalf of UCC Tolland

Applicant Address: 58 Hartford Turnpike Tolland, CT 06084

Phone Number: 860-604-6899 Email Address: stewartappraisal@comcast.net

Project Information

Type of Building: free standing & wall sign at church building

Nature and description of work to be done as it affects exterior appearance. Attach appropriate drawing or plans giving the position of the house or structure on the site, ground plan of house with proposed addition, and all pertinent elevations showing size and style of windows, dormers, doors, exterior wall finishes, roofing material, chimneys, vents and ornamentation. (If more space needed, attach sheet to application.)

Install new free standing sign in side / front yard to replace current

freestanding sign. Install new wall sign in place of current temporary wall sign

Estimated Start and Completion Dates:

are obtained

Start:

as soon as all approvals

Complete:

one month of approvals

- 1. Attach a photograph of the existing structure or place to be changed as viewed from the street showing that portion of the structure to be altered, together with a drawing of the proposed alteration or change.
- 2. Application fee of \$75.00 must accompany application (make checks payable to Town of Tolland).
- 3. Application form, fee, plans, photograph and drawing must be submitted to <u>Planning & Building Department</u>. Public Hearings will be scheduled within not more than sixty-five days after the filing of an application.

This application form and all accompanying plans and materials are accurate and complete:

Applicant Signature:

Date:

7-16-2020

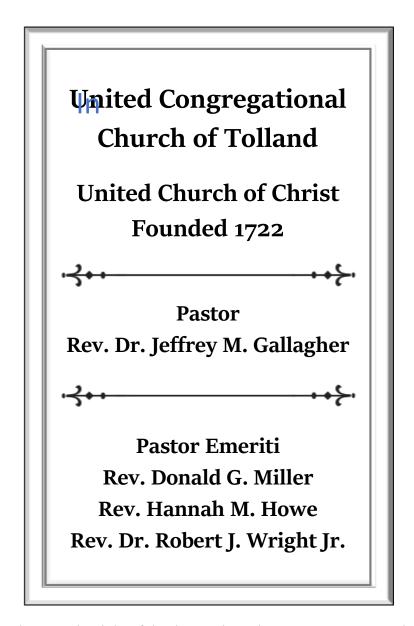
Property Owner Signature:

red on Date

7-16-2020

OFFICE USE ONLY

Received & Fee Paid:	7/16/2020	Hearing Scheduled:	7-29-2020
Hearing Advertised:	7/22/2020	Action:	
Notice of Action to Applicant:			

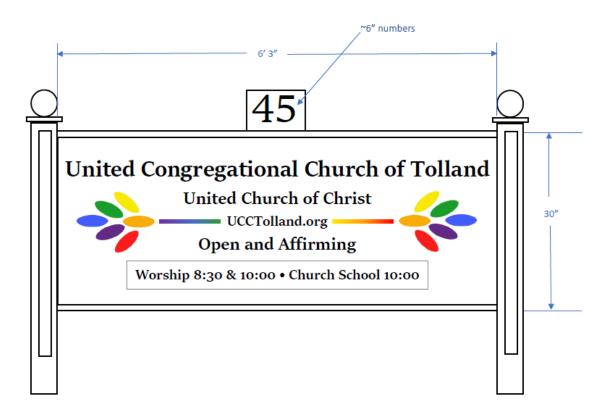


This sign will go on column to the right of the doors where the current temporary sign is as seen on the photograph on the next page.

The sign will be 27 inches wide and 42 inches tall including the frame so as to fit on the 28 inch wide column. This is 1 inch wider than the temporary sign that is on the wall with only a black line frame instead of a defined frame as requested by the Historic District Commission for the temporary sign.



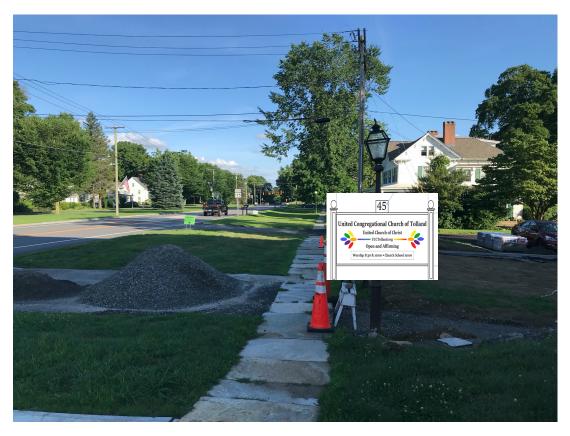
This new freestanding sign will go on the side yard between the church and the church driveway as shown on the aerial shot on the next page and then in the property photographs on the following pages. The sign will be halfway between the two new paver sidewalks that run along the parking lot and along the church to the Town granite sidewalk. The sign will have low level thin LED lighting similar to the one picture below under the top border frame below the 45 that will be hidden from view.



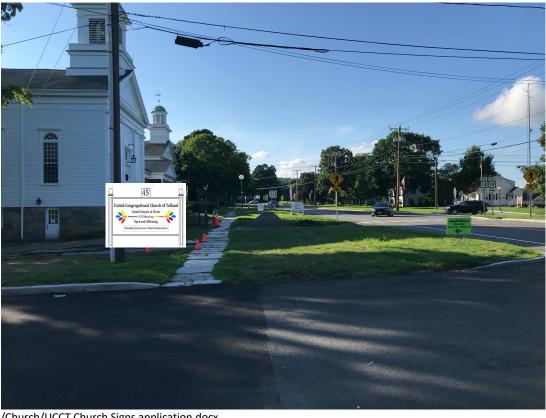








In above photo will be other side of lamp post and in below photo will be on other side of telephone pole. There will be landscaping wood chips and low shrubs around sign.



Bob's Laptop/Church/UCCT Church Signs application.docx

Correspondence

July 28, 2020

97 Kozley Road

Tolland CT 06084

To: Tolland Green Historic District Commission

Subject: <u>Hearing on signage for United Congregational Church, 43 Tolland Green</u>

Attention: Jodi Marzialo, Chair

Ladies/Gentlemen:

As a lifetime member of the community, Archivist of the Tolland Historical Society and a former Commission member, It is my opinion that the subject request for increased signage at the Church is inappropriate to the Historic District and should not be approved.

The historic white church is an icon of the New England green, symbolic of our history. This 1838 church is an anchor of the historic green neighborhood and it would be most appropriate to regain and retain its classic appeal with as little distracting clutter as possible, both attached and freestanding. Proximity to the sidewalk might also create a pedestrian safety hazard.

It would appear that this signage greatly exceeds the prescribed limits. One can only safely read so much while driving at normal speed before it becomes distracting, and I hope the Commission (and the church) will carefully consider whether this plan actually will provide any benefits to offset the harm that will result.

Sincerely,

Barbara F. Cook

Historic District Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our perspective, as the Hicks-Stearns Family Museum Board of Trustees, on the newly proposed signage at the United Church of Christ in Tolland (UCCT). While we support the UCCT's desire to change their sign, we hope that they will work with the Historic District Commission to design a sign that is more in character with those displayed by other public venues on the Green.

The size and orientation of the proposed sign is what is most concerning to us. In addition to it not conforming to the other moderately-sized signs on the Green, it also will be lit and oriented perpendicularly to the road, unlike the signs at the Old County Courthouse, the Arts of Tolland and even the Town Hall for example. To provide some context, the Courthouse, which replaced their sign in recent years, has an approximately $4 \frac{1}{2}$ ' (including posts) wide x 3' high sign. The Church's proposed sign with posts would be closer to 7' wide with a similar height dimension to the Courthouse sign. While Hicks-Stearns' sign is another perpendicular sign on the Green, it measures a mere 19"x 25".

In addition to reducing the size and reorienting the sign, we would like to suggest that UCCT alternatively consider a timed spotlight. There are properties on the Green that have achieved aesthetically pleasing illumination through the use of a spotlight. We believe that the Tolland Inn is currently the only non-residential building that has lighting on their sign. The moderately-sized sign (approximately 5'x1') hangs above their front door, hence parallel to the roadway, and is lit with two small spotlights.

We hold the church in high regard as a strong contributor to our community. We hope that all can work together to achieve a fitting sign to highlight this beautiful historic building and place of worship.

Sincerely,

The Hicks-Stearns Family Museum, Board of Trustees

Sandy Leubner, President Mariah Bumps, Vice-President Nancy Orris, Treasurer Erin Grady Ashley Lundgren From: tollandredandwhite

Date: July 29, 2020 at 2:22:45 PM EDT

To: mj-marz@msn.com

Subject: HDC

Good Afternoon-

We are aware of the UCC's request to place a new, bigger and lighted sign in front of their building.

We at Tolland Red and White are appreciative of our neighborhood. We value the significance of history, especially in our National Historic District. We trust that the Historic District Commission will be consistent in their decision and suggestions regarding the UCC's application for their new sign.

Thank you,

Tolland Red and White, LLC

From: SANDRA ADAMS Date: Jul 28, 2020 6:54 PM

Subject: church application for new sign

Hi Jodie

This was brought to my attention and wanted to have a chance to voice my opinion we would rather not see that happen. We do not have anything against the church but do not believe it goes with the historic setting. Its bad enough the State has added so many signs.

Thank you Frank & Sandy From: Kate Farrish

Date: Jul 27, 2020 2:28 PM

Subject: Fwd: Letter from the Tolland Historical Society re Church sign



Tolland Historic District Commission Members

Ms. Jodie Coleman-Marzialo, Chair

The Congregational Church is applying for a new sign as is their privilege as an HD neighbor. Many of us in the Historic District have replaced our signs (3 museums, Jail, Court House, Hicks Stearns, plus Red & White) in recent years but we all stayed within certain parameters of the Green neighborhood in consideration of our neighbors. The UCCT application does not. The Tolland Historical Society is requesting that the Commission work with the UCCT to bring their application into compliance or conformity with the existing signs in the district, and not simply deny it.

Our concerns are based on the following:

1. Size of freestanding sign -6'3" plus 2x posts (more than 7 feet wide) x 30" high plus post & finial tall (standing 4 feet tall), larger than any other on the Green. Basically, it will be 7x4 when erected.

- 2. Orientation is perpendicular to the street (unlike any other freestanding signs), Small angled signs, where found, are used to designate a second use of the establishment.
- 3. Illumination the Historic District remains a neighborhood, predominately residential currently no lit freestanding signs are found on the Green. This was a huge consideration when the light posts were placed in 2005, and the subject of a neighborhood conversation of which this society was a part. Residents do NOT want light from the road, street lights, etc in their home's windows or on their street. (i.e.: lights they cannot control in their unique, protected, predominantly residential neighborhood.) If this precedent were to be set with the church, there are currently 12 potential establishments that could "light up" their signs in the historic district. What purpose does illumination serve after dark? The Green basically serves the 2 rush hours as we learned in the recent DOT project.

All the above elements that are being requested are suited to the Commercial District. They meet the town standards in the Commercial District or areas of commercial interest to the town, not the Historic District of which the UCCT was a charter member vote.

Ironically, this is the only building on the Green that architecturally needs no identification at all!

We again request that the HDC and UCCT work to bring this request into compliance/conformity with the district.

Regards,

The Tolland Historical Society Board of Directors Kate Farrish

Secretary

Subject: Church COA - comments from Tolland Green residents

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Jodie Marzialo <mjmarz@msn.com>
Cc: Kathy Bach <kwbach@gmail.com>

Subject: Church COA - comments from Tolland Green residents

Hi Jodie,

We'd like to submit the following comments for consideration of the recent COA application by the Congregational Church for Wed July 29, 2020. Please click reply to confirm that you received our comments. Thanks.

As residents of the Tolland Green, our hope is that the Historic District Commission allow the wall mounted sign and deny the proposed free standing sign for inappropriateness for the following reasons:

- 1. As an historic district, the sidewalk view, when unobstructed from signage, is a visitor plus for the town. In the two photo simulations provided by the applicant, it clearly can be seen that the proposed, free-standing sign disrupts the historic view by obscuring the other historic buildings. In one view, the architecture of the home's porch adjacent to the church is completely covered up. In the other view, the brick and wood facades for the buildings on the other side of the church are no longer visible. To us, the lack of open sight lines would violate one of the National Register of Historic Places criteria where the "integrity of the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling" would be a modification from the original application when we were granted historic district status.
- 2. The Green is a residential, multi-use area. We maintain our historic home as both a residence and as a business. We had strict size and placement guidelines for the non-residential signage: size no more than 2'x2', could not be free-standing, could not be lit and could not be mounted in the front, street facing part of our yard where it would obstruct the historic view of the district or any road traffic. The rationale we were given for the restrictions was to preserve and prioritize the historic nature of the Green above the need for advertising to preserve the Green's ambience while ensuring safety. We agree with this priority whether it be to solicit business clients or church members. The size of the proposed free-standing sign is well beyond the restrictions imposed upon us. Plus, if lit, the sign would have an even greater presence, with 24/7 advertising. Given the parameters of the proposed sign, if a CoA was granted, we believe that the Town would be setting a new precedent of advertising over historic ambience, in a manner unfair to our business and all other signage currently used on the Green.
- 3. Finally, to ensure we were fair about our assessment of the proposed free-standing sign and the potential detrimental effects it could cause on our historic ambience, we walked to the area as noted in the CoA application. It was very disturbing to see that there was an electrical fitting already in place at the designated sign location (see photo). Whether this fitting is intended for a future sign or for another purpose, electrification of any signage, we believe, should be an absolute "no" to avoid the district from appearing as a business zoned area (On-the-Run, Electric Blue, Big Y this is where electrified signs exist). The only purpose for lighting up a sign is to make the sign more visible during non-daylight hours, which is a common practice for advertising and would stand out on the Green from other homes, buildings and businesses. This aspect of the proposal is completely unacceptable to us.



4.

We hope that the church is willing to work with the Historic District Commission, as we have through the years, to find a solution that will not damage the Green's historic ambience and ensure that the ambience remains the priority above commercialization for personal gain over community gain.

Thank you for hearing our comments.

Dave and Hollie Barnas

Residents of 31 Tolland Green

Regular Meeting

3. Miscellaneous

From: cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at Town of Tolland CT

<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:59 AM

To: Megan Massa

Subject: [EXTERNAL][Town of Tolland CT] Proposed Fence on Prospective Property (Sent by

Mitch Doucette, doucettemi@easternct.edu)

Attachments: proposed_fence-100_tolland_green-doucette.png; proposed_fence-material-doucette_

100_tolland_green.png

Hello mmassa.

Mitch Doucette (doucettemi@easternct.edu) has sent you a message via your contact form (https://www.tolland.org/user/7703/contact) at Town of Tolland CT.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at https://www.tolland.org/user/7703/edit.

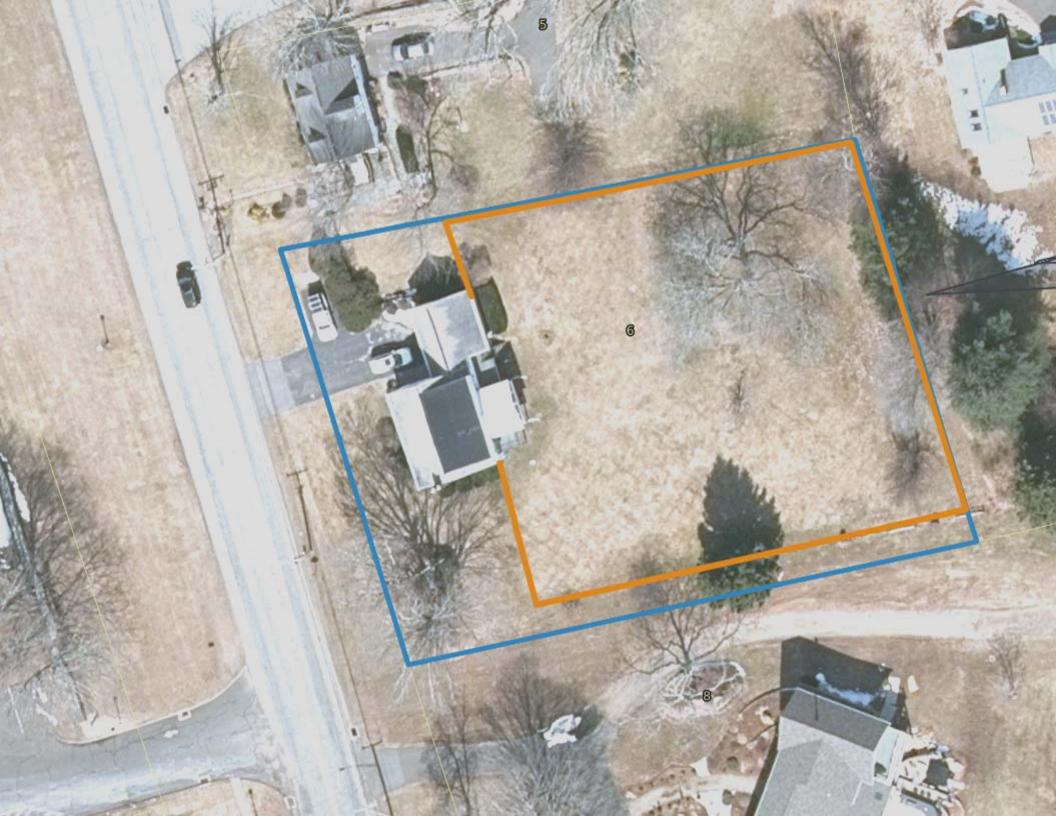
Message:

Hi Megan,

My name is Mitch Doucette, I spoke with James a few minutes ago about a property I am considering purchasing on Tolland Green. I am a father of two girls under the age of 3 and a family dog and would very much like to purchase the property 100 Tolland Green. However, for their safety, and due to the proximity to the road, I would want to install a 4 foot white picket fence around my backyard. Attached is an image of the proposed fence from the Tolland GIS mapping and an image of the proposed fence material from home depot. At this time, I have made an offer on the house and I am waiting to hear from the seller.

Currently I am a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University and my wife is a nurse at Windham Hospital. We would very much like to make Tolland the community we raise our children in and as part of that, I would like to ensure their safety in the coming years.

Thank you for the consideration from the building department and the Tolland Green Historical Society. Mitch Doucette



Internet #203008804

Model # 128004











Veranda > ₩ View the Collection

Glendale 4 ft. H x 8 ft. W White Vinyl Spaced Picket Fence Panel with Pointed Pickets

**** (84) Vrite a Review Questions & Answers (68)

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- · Kit includes everything needed to assemble one panel section
- · White spaced picket design adds traditional charm to your home

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