Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, August 11, 2011
3rd Floor Conference Room
7:00pm
Adopted September 8, 2011

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Jr., J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Donald S. Berg, Susan T. Steele

Historical Commission Member Absent: Thomas Melone

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Daphne M. Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

David Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00p.m.

1) **Public Hearing Continued – Demolition Permit – 265-267 Palfrey Street, to demolish a two-family structure to be replaced with a new two-family structure. The Estate of Anthony Naples, owner. The Gilbert Street Realty Group, LLC, applicant.**

Russo reported that the 1895 Subdivision maps do not indicate a house on plot 61. His records indicate that house was built sometime between 1895 -1898.

Berg thought that the original house appeared to be a single family and was possibly converted to a 2-family later.

Steele thought that it was hard to judge whether this property is preferably preserved.

Jones believed that the neighborhood would benefit from a restoration. Russo noted that the house across the street had been rehabilitated but not as it was originally. He thought the structure had integrity of space, that it was well suited and designed to its lot.

Jones wished it was restored, but that it was not a sufficient reason to declare it preferably preserved.

Loukas questioned whether there were other examples of this style elsewhere in the town. Russo thought 57 Russell Avenue which has a similar projecting bay.

Russo thought the structure was unique and that there really wasn't anything quite like it. Jones argued that there are Stick Style houses of this era in existence. Jones and Russo agreed that the massing was unique.

Vote: Jones moved that **265-267 Palfrey** is **preferably preserved.** Berg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

Russo argued that if the projection was added a building permit for the projection would exist. Since it does not, Russo believed that the projection was original.

Loukas wondered if a restoration would result if a delay was imposed.

Berg did not support a demolition delay.

Steele requested that a photo be taken of the original siding before it was demolished for the record.

Len Holt, the applicant, believed the structure was originally built as a two-family since both units were identical. Holt stated that it was not economically feasible to restore.

Jones thought the building has “excellent bones.” Russo thought that if the neighborhood were different a demolition delay would be appropriate. Steele felt that each demolition erodes the neighborhood.

No demolition delay period was imposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.