

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, January 12, 2012
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted February 9, 2011

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Jr., J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan T. Steele, Donald S. Berg, 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 – Demolition Permit – 171 Summer Street, demolition of two-family structure to construct a new two-family structure. Applicant: Joseph M. Deodato.

Joseph Deodato, owner and applicant, reported that he was proposing to demolish 171 Summer Street, a vinyl-sided 2 family structure, to be replaced by a new two-family structure similar in design as the 2 family structures he has developed along Summer Street.

Jones inquired why Deodato hadn't considered a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the properties. Deodato explained that each property had been acquired separately over time and developed upon his acquisition - hence the linear development outcome along the street rather than a more integrated, relational one.

Vote: Berg moved that 171 Summer Street is not preferably preserved. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2) December Minutes – Approved.

3) Watertown Historical Commission Ordinance Update Discussion

The HC reviewed proposed ordinance changes which would reflect a time period for determinations. Russo and Hayward will meet with Magoon to review the proposed changes.

4) New Business

Davenport Delta – Members of the HC had been contacted by Nancy O'Leary about the proposed changes to the delta as a result of street improvements to Belmont Street.

Roach reported that the Davenport Delta was deeded by Charles Davenport, a noted Town leader, to the Town for \$1 in 1858 on the condition that it be maintained as a common. This is considered one of the first designated Town open spaces.

Jones suggested that the Russo write a letter to the Traffic Commission voicing the HC opposition to taking the land from the Davenport Delta on historic grounds – the Davenport deed and association with Davenport; the first designated Open Space; and the importance of maintaining open space with historic value.

Vote: Roach moved that Russo write a letter in opposition to the taking of the Davenport Delta for the proposed street changes due to the historic merits of the property. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5) Old Business

Signage – no update.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.