

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, September 13, 2012
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted November 14, 2012

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Jr., J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Thomas Melone

Historical Commission Members Absent: Susan T. Steele, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Donald S. Berg

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 Review – 29 Boyd Street to demolish a detached two car garage to be replaced with a new two car garage, Gaetamina Gentilucci, owner.

Gaetamina Gentilucci and her son Mark Gentilucci presented a proposal to demolish the deteriorated two-car garage and replace it with a two-car garage on the existing footprint.

Vote: Jones moved to find the garage at 29 Boyd Street as not Preferably Preserved. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit Review – 7 Purvis Street to demolish a two-car detached garage not to be replaced. Robert MacDougall, owner; David Bastianelli, applicant.

Robert MacDougall, owner, and David Bastianelli, the owner's applicant, presented a proposal to demolish the two-car garage for yard and garden space.

Vote: Melone moved to find the garage at 7 Purvis Street as not Preferably Preserved. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Hearing– Demolition Permit Review – 9 Fayette Street to demolish a single family structure to be replaced by a new two-family residence. Robert Bibbo, owner, Carl Attardo, applicant.

Ken Leitner, representative of the owner, reported on a plan to raze the house and garage at 9 Fayette Street. According to Leitner the structure was not historically significant as it was vinyl sided and the windows had been replaced and the structure had many additions. He did note that the porch brackets were original.

Roach noted that the garage was originally a stable and that the house was built in 1846.

Jones noted that the house appeared to be a vernacular farmhouse and that the siding and roof issues were cosmetic. He indicated the bones of the house were visible and that the 1846 house had merit. He said that its loss would be regrettable.

Leitner suggested saving the brackets and posts and reusing them in the new building.

Patricia Martocchia, 15 Fayette Street, inquired about the impact of the project on her driveway.

John Cimino, 143 Church Street, supported the demolition.

Claire Barry, 5 Florence Street, wanted information on the proposed replacement plans.

Russo informed that the building was built by Freeman Wolcott in 1846-1847 and that the additions predate the Town's zoning and permitting process. Russo provided a chronology of the owners of 9 Fayette Street.

Melone noted that the sideboards and porch identify the period and style. He inquired if the property could be moved to the front of the property to allow space for the proposed development project without demolishing the building.

Jones noted that the porch looks like it's an addition from a later period than the house. Roach concurred stating that excluding the porch the structure appeared to be a Greek Revival style house.

Vote: Jones moved to determine that 9 Fayette Street is Preferably Preserved. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jones stated that he'd like to see a demolition delay be imposed to see if an alternative to demolition is possible.

Vote: Melone moved to impose a 6 months demolition delay on 9 Fayette Street. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Public Hearing– Demolition Permit Review –33 Grenville Road to demolish a two- family structure to be replaced by a new single-family residence. Anthony Lamacchia, owner

Anthony Lamacchia, owner, informed that he planned to demolish the two-family house to be replaced by a new single-family home for his family. He noted that the final project will be an improvement with 80% open space over the 74% for the existing structure. He believed the property was built in 1913. He reported that he had the support of all the neighbors. He provided 3 letters of support.

Ari Koufos, 5 Bellevue Terrace, supported the demolition and proposed replacement.

Henrietta Light, 22 Grenville Road, supported the demolition and replacement of a blighted property.

Russo reported that the 2-acre property was purchased by Michael and Elizabeth Ralley in 1864 remaining in the family's ownership until 1957. The present owners were the 3rd owners, according to Russo.

Jones thought the property was an anomaly in the neighborhood and that it had no historic merit.

Melone believed the property may have been originally a Mansard style house but had been heavily altered over the years into the present 2-family structure.

Vote: Jones moved to find 22 Grenville Street not preferably preserved. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. 106 Review

- **462 Mount Auburn Street** – Rachel Sachs noted that the roof top of 462 Mt. Auburn was congested with cell equipment and that it was an eyesore to abutting historic property site lines. Sachs and Russo will craft a 106 Review letter.
- **485-617 Arsenal Street** – Russo noted that there was a previous 106 Review letter for this property and to review it for possible response.

6. July Minutes – Approved.

7. Old Business

- **Signage Replacement of Stolen Markers & Arlington Street Cemetery Signage** – Hayward reported that all the plaques are to be installed in spring 2013. Proofs will be available for review prior to installation.
- **917 Belmont Street** – Preservation Massachusetts is reviewing the application to list the property in the Most Endangered Resource list. The Town and the owner have been meeting exploring alternatives to demolition. Joyce Kelly suggested that the owner contact the Bennett School for preservation services.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.