

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday,
April 14, 2016
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Marilynne K. Roach, Thomas Melone, J.B. Jones, Elise Loukas, Susan Steele,

Member(s) Absent: Donald S. Berg

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness

Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a description of the public hearing process for the Historical Commission (HC) by Russo.

- 1) **Public Hearing Continuance – 63 Wilson Ave.** to consider the demolition permit application submitted for a single family, split level home with attached garage to build two attached townhouse style units. Kenneth J. Leitner Jr., Applicant representative, Peter McNicholas, Joseph Bonica, Trustees – Owners

The owner was represented by Kenneth J. Leitner, Esq. who described the house as a single family split level with an attached garage settled into a neighborhood which is populated with mostly 2 family homes at the current time. He was not aware of any historical or architectural significance of the structure.

Commission Discussion

Melone stated that he viewed the neighborhood as predominantly 2 family homes up and down the street. He said he could not say the house has historical or architectural merit.

Jones stated that he saw the same thing as Melone and did not think it would be a loss to the heritage of the town to see this house go.

Motion: Jones made a motion that the building at 63 Wilson is not preferably preserved. Melone seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached that the house at 63 Wilson Ave. was not preferably preserved.

- 2) **Minutes – March 10, 2016**

Motion: Melone made a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting. Jones seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting.

3) Old Business

a. **March 7, 2016 site visit Branch Libraries with Mark Comeiro, Veteran Services Officer.**

Agent Hayward and Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning are discussing the next steps for sorting out the existing records and documentation now being stored at the branch library.

The Historical Society has expressed interest in saving any records that are going to be disposed of by the town during this phase of purging the contents of the library.

917 Belmont Street – Upkeep and Maintenance discussion based on language of Landmark Ordinance

Agent Hayward reported back to HC in regard to fixing the post at 917 Belmont Street. Currently, Steve Magoon is working on a letter that will be presented for the signature of Russo, the HC Chairperson. Standards for the repair work will be included, in particular if materials are not specified as “in kind materials.”

It was also discussed that 77 Riverside has not been properly registered to date.

HC members agreed that it is their position that this is the time to move forward on making sure that agreements such as 917 Belmont Street and 77 Riverside are getting properly registered within the one year window of opportunity that is allowed from date the signing of the agreement occurs.

Neighborhood Photography Project.

Russo reminded HC members that work is continuing on the photography project. He said that Arlington St. eastward is a good location to shoot. Steele discussed that she was focusing her efforts on East of School St. from Winsor, Hillside, Upland and then back to the Brigham Circle Area.

Russo reminded HC members that the photos would be cataloged and labeled and then stored at the Free Public Library in perpetuity.

Steele asked if any HC members thought there would be any other use for the photos. Loukas mentioned the web site called Dirty Boston and suggested that perhaps the Watertown photos could be showcased in a similar fashion.

Russo suggested that if the photos complied with the requirements being shot in side angles and with two frames, then they could also be utilized in the form B process.

b. 2016 Preservation Awards discussion/planning

The preservation awards have been planned for May 19th and will be held at the Commanders Mansion.

The agent agreed to identify individual names for those responsible for executing the work in an award for a nomination for the Mastrangelo Award.

Russo and Hayward agreed to talk over the next week to refine and rematch some of the award recipients to categories that were additionally suitable ones given the criteria of the projects themselves.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.