

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, August 11, 2016
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

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

Member(s) Absent: David J. Russo, Donald S. Berg

Staff Present: Christopher, Hayward, Susan C. Jenness (adopted on 10.6.16)

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

- 1) **Public Hearing – 30 Harrington St.** a 2 family ranch built in 1945. Proposed is a 2 family with 2 units, each with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Michael Milendorf, applicant, owner.

Milendorf the current owner appeared for the public hearing. He reviewed the current structure and clarified that the home is a two family.

He explained that the home at 29 Harrington Street is a model for the proposed plans.

Melone explained that he determined that the current house was actually built in 1942, not in 1945.

Steele said that the ratio of houses in the neighborhood appear to be very mixed. Melone confirmed out of twelve houses, ten of them are single.

Steele said she finds the proposed structure very nice. She liked the entry way in the plans and was happy that hardwood plank will be used in the materials.

Loukas inquired about the height of the proposed building in comparison to the existing structure. The proposed building is 34 feet which is about the same.

Motion: A motion was made by Melone that the house is not preferably preserved. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached that the house was not preferably preserved.

- 2) **Old Business- Update on 917 Belmont St.-** Agent Hayward told the HC that Steve Tannenbaum had spoken with Steve Magoon the Director of Community Development and Planning and told him that he will have 3 bids very soon on the repair of the building.

HC members were concerned about itemizing and prioritizing what actually needs to be taken care of as the highest priority.

Loukas said that she would like to have an expert appointed to inspect the premises to inventory what needs to be done. She explained further that she felt there needs to be a scope of work in descriptive form. She also expressed an interest in having a meeting of the minds prior to seeking out bids

Steele requested that Steve Magoon come to the September meeting to discuss the progress being made towards repairing 917 Belmont St.

3) Minutes– July 13, 2016- The minutes were adopted with minor modification.

4) New Business- Facilities Master Planning Forum- Preservation of existing school buildings.

Town Councilor Vincent Piccirilli was present to explain the Master Plan Roadmap being followed as a collaborative work by the Watertown Public Schools and by the Building and Grounds Subcommittee.

Part of the scope of the work being examined in the Master Plan is whether or not the town should re-purpose current school buildings or pursue building new ones.

Loukas asked if the collaborative group had considered re-use of the vacant public library buildings. Piccirilli explained that given the projected growth anticipated in the schools over the next ten years, in addition to the lack of land around the library buildings that would not be feasible.

Piccirilli went on to explain that the letter which had been sent on behalf of the HC to Mr. John Portz and Ms. Elizabeth Yusem of the Master Plan Steering Committee in support of the re-use of current buildings had been well received. He said that the details and thoughts contained in the letter were very helpful.

Motion: A motion was made by Loukas adopting the July 27, 2016 letter sent by the Historical Commission to John Portz and Elizabeth Yusem of the Master Plan Steering Committee. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached adopting the letter sent by the Historical Commission.

Roach said she was happy that the care of the buildings expressed in the letter was appreciated. Jones and Melone both mentioned how happy they were with the letter.

Meeting adjourned.