

Minutes
of the
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, September 11, 2008
Council Chambers
7:00pm

Historical Commission Members Present:

Russo, Berg, Jones, Roach

Staff Present: Hayward, Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

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

- 1. Public Hearing Demolition Request – 27-29 Gleason Street, a two-family dwelling, Paula Ganon, owner**

Applicant requested a continuance.

Vote: Berg moved to continue the Public Hearing on 27-29 Gleason Street to the next Historical Commission to be held October 16, 2008 at 7pm in the Town Council Chambers. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Public Hearing Demolition Requests – for 532-534 Pleasant Street, 536-538 Pleasant Street, 540-542 Pleasant Street, A. Russo and Sons, Inc, owner

David Russo recused himself from the item.

Dan Bailey, attorney representing for the owner noted that the properties were built in 1919, 1920 and 1923 and that the garage was built in 1930. He informed that the buildings were not in an historic district or in Watertown Historic Inventory of 1982. He said that the structures were over 150' from the mill and were not part of the mill housing. He indicated that the properties were used as rentals. He explained that Russo & Sons recently acquired the land for parking for their retail business

Jones thought the houses were handsome.

Berg reported that 540 Pleasant Street had building permits for additions designed by Alberto Hynes, a prominent Watertown architect.

Jones noted that the Pleasant Street single family neighborhood is gone. He agreed that 540 Pleasant Street had merit but without its context he would consider demolition. Berg agreed.

Joyce Kelly, 28 Marshall Street, inquired if there were interior photos. Michael Russo, owner, provide some interior photos.

Note: Berg moved that 532-534 Pleasant Street was not preferably preserved. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vote: Berg moved that 536-538 Pleasant Street was not preferably preserved. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vote: Berg moved that 540-542 Pleasant Street was not preferably preserved. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The HC noted that there was a garage on the site yet there was no permit application requesting a demolition for this building. Bailey noted they intended to take down the garage. There was a discussion to investigate whether there was an oversight by the Building Department and to seek clarification from the Building and Zoning Office.

Hayward noted that the HC could not consider the demolition of the garage without public notice and a posted public hearing.

Jones instructed the applicant to apply for a demolition permit for the garage and meet all the requirements established in the ordinance, and that at the next HC meeting the item could be discussed at a public hearing. He recommended that the HC not entertain a special meeting for this item.

3. September Minutes. Adopted.

4. Boston Post Cane

Russo researched the Town possible claim on the cane. He indicated that written material is needed that stated that the cane was given "temporarily." Roach responded that the gold insignia on the cane said it was "transmitted" to the eldest person in Watertown. Russo suggested that

research be done on the last oldest person who was awarded the cane. He requested that the item be placed on the October agenda.

5. Faire in the Square

Faire in the Square is scheduled for September 27 from 10am to 4pm. The HC requested that copies of the 375th Watertown maps and historic plaque promotion and applications be available for the event.

6. Watertown Historical Society Update

Joyce Kelly expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Watertown Historical Society for the Historic Plaque. She mentioned that the WHS is interested in acquiring a plaque for the back Sturgis & Brigham portion of the building. She reported that October 25th will be an Oktoberfest fundraiser at the Fowle House.

7. Preservation Agent Report

Hayward reported that the Saltonstall Monument was vandalized with car oil. DCR is spending \$4,000 to repair the damage. The restoration dedication has been postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.