



Historical Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 8:00 PM
Third Floor Conference Room and Remote
Participation on Zoom

Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:00 pm. Location: In the Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 149 Main St., Watertown, MA, with Remote Participation on Zoom.
- B. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television) on Comcast Channel 22 or RCN Channel 13 and can be streamed online at: <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/95648117955>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 956 4811 7955
- E. Public may comment through email: sjenness@watertown-ma.gov
- F. Please Visit the Historical Commission Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/214/Historical-Commission>

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1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from the May 14, 2026, Historical Commission meeting.
 4. Commission Business
 - A. To review plans and potential vote on the demolition delay that was imposed on January 9, 2026, on 22 Stoneleigh Circle.
 5. Agent Report
 6. Adjournment

22 Stoneleigh Circle

EXISTING FACADE

**SYMMERTICAL
ELEVATION WITH
DORMER**

**SMALL PEEK A
BOO WINDOW**

PROMINENT SOFFIT

BRICK FACADE

**FRONT DOOR W SIDELITES
AND WINDOWS**



www.kontseptual.com
Images shown are a very rough representation; please view as schematic only

Date prepared: 6/5/26

22 Stoneleigh Circle



The proposed design seeks to preserve and respect the historic character of the existing building while accommodating the addition of a second story. The entire **first-floor front façade** will remain intact, including the **existing brickwork** and the **distinctive grille-pattern windows**, which will be replaced with new energy-efficient units that replicate the original appearance. The overall **symmetry** of the front elevation will be maintained, preserving the balanced composition that defines the building's character. The existing **roof form and slope** have been carefully incorporated into the design, allowing the second story to be introduced while retaining the recognizable proportions and profile of the original structure. The new roof eaves are designed to align with and **continue the architectural language** of the existing building, incorporating similar detailing while utilizing slightly deeper soffits to meet contemporary construction requirements and provide visual continuity.

22 Stoneleigh Circle

Existing



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Date prepared: 6/5/26

22 Stoneleigh Circle



Summary

This is our preferred option. It preserves symmetry and historic elements while significantly improving interior circulation, natural light, and overall design cohesion. The result balances historical respect with functional, livable space.

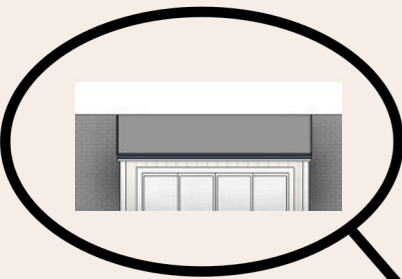
www.kontseptual.com

Images shown are a very rough representation; please view as schematic only

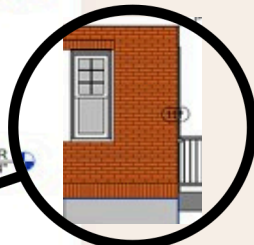
Date prepared: 6/5/26

Symmetrical gables reflecting the existing architecture.

Matching shed roof over dormer to match existing condition.



New widows to match existing with six over one grid pattern.



Maintaining the brick façade.



Maintaining widows with six over one grid pattern.



Maintaining the front porch with centered entry with side lights and symmetrical windows on either side.

To whom it may concern,

As many of us know, Donna was a wonderful neighbor who grew up in the family home and was part of the fabric of this community for many years.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Haigaz Markarian and his family as they begin the next chapter in this home. I've gotten to know Haigaz and his family since he purchased the house, and I am confident they will be a great addition to our neighborhood.

Haigaz was kind enough to share his plans for the new development with my family and me. We believe their plans for the property reflect a commitment to the home and the community while maintaining its warm charm. I believe they will be wonderful neighbors for years to come. I hope everyone will join me in welcoming the Markarian family and making them feel at home.

Sincerely,

John Avakian

May 30, 2026

To: City of Watertown

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed improvements by Haigaz and Cindy Markarian at 22 Stoneleigh Circle, Watertown, Mass 02472.

I know this home well as my relatives lived there for many years: I have so many good memories from my time there.

I'm delighted that Markarians are making these wonderful improvements. As a lifelong resident of Watertown, I'm excited to see the plans to improve another home in our great city.

Sincerely,

Paul DerBoghosian

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul DerBoghosian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Founder

Graphic Connections

145 Mount Auburn Street

Watertown, MA 02472

June 8, 2026

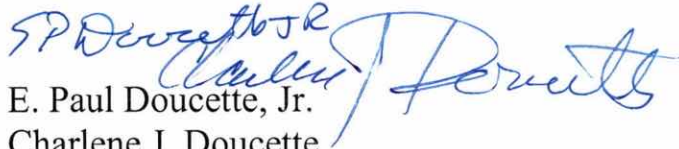
Watertown Historical Commission
Watertown, Massachusetts

Re: 22 Stoneleigh Circle, Watertown, MA

It has come to my attention that Haigaz Markarian owner of 22 Stoneleigh Circle is in the process of remodeling and renovating his house which he intends to occupy after completion. He has shared with me artist architectural drawings of the project. In my opinion, it doesn't contradict the style of any neighboring houses and would fit in with the neighborhood as I see it. Therefore, I support and have no objections to the project.

It is my understanding that if he waits long enough (through this ongoing delay) he will be able to knock down the house completely and build a new house on that property.

Sincerely,



The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "E. Paul Doucette, Jr.". The signature is written over the printed name "E. Paul Doucette, Jr." and "Charlene J. Doucette".

E. Paul Doucette, Jr.
Charlene J. Doucette
60 Garfield Street
Watertown, MA

May 14, 2026

To: City of Watertown

This letter is for support of the proposed plans to add a second floor to 22 Stoneleigh Circle in Watertown. All the homes in that neighborhood are Colonial style and my wife and I who live in the neighborhood support those plans that the homeowner has proposed.

Sincerely,

 
Ari & Debra Koufos

5 Bellevue Terrace Watertown

06/01/2026

To whom it may concern,

My name is Yelena Hakobyan and I reside at 42 Brigham Street. I have gotten to know Haigaz Markarian and his growing family and they are very kind and very excited to start this new chapter as they renovate their forever single-family home as a family of five. Haigaz has been a resident of Watertown for 30+ years and I have known him and his mother for these many years. I am so happy he wishes to stay in Watertown to raise his own family as well.

Haigaz has shown me the plans and I believe that he is keeping a lot of the houses charm and character in his plan including the brick, the small windows, and keeping the door in the middle as his original plan had it moved, but now he's keeping it. I believe the new plans will certainly fit and match the neighborhood as every home in the area is two and half stories.

Welcome Haigaz and his family to this very warm and welcoming neighborhood that his kids already love and dream to move into.

Sincerely,

Yelena Hakobyan

Yelena Hakobyan



Phil Greenough and Jamie Parker

100 Garfield Street

Watertown, Mass 02472

May 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife Jamie Parker and I are writing to express our support for the proposed improvements by Haigaz and Cindy Markarian at 22 Stoneleigh Circle, Watertown, Mass 02472.

Stoneleigh Circle is a wonderful street: one where we enjoy walking with our dogs daily. The renderings for the home improvements look excellent. We're so glad to see these tasteful upgrades that are sure to enhance the street and neighborhood. We cannot wait to see those architectural drawings come to life.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive and somewhat stylized.

Phil Greenough and Jamie Parker

June 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

We are in full support of the new second-floor addition plans for 22 Stoneleigh Circle.

We are very happy to welcome Haigaz and Cindy to our neighborhood. The new improvements will truly enhance the other homes on the street and will be a great improvement to the existing house.

Sincerely,

Andrea and David Ricci

39 Brigham Street

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Ricci".

David Ricci

We can be reached at 617-592-7071

June 8, 2026

Watertown Historical Commission
Watertown, Massachusetts

Re: 22 Stoneleigh Circle, Watertown, MA

It has come to my attention that Haigaz Markarian owner of 22 Stoneleigh Circle is in the process of remodeling and renovating his house which he intends to occupy after completion. He has shared with me artist architectural drawings of the project. In my opinion, it doesn't contradict the style of any neighboring houses and would fit in with the neighborhood as I see it. Therefore, I support and have no objections to the project.

It is my understanding that if he waits long enough (through this ongoing delay) he will be able to knock down the house completely and build a new house on that property.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Paul Doucette, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. Paul Doucette, Jr.
Charlene J. Doucette
60 Garfield Street
Watertown, MA

06/03/2026

To whom this may concern

My name is Abgar Danielian from 20 Amherst Rd Watertown MA. I am a member of the neighborhood would like to inform the counsel that the changes that the Markarian family is making to the home is very charming and fits well with the neighborhood.

Haigaz Markarian has shown me the variations of the plans and there are significant changes made to preserve the existing look of the home. I appreciate the effort put in to preserve the style of the home to fit in with the neighborhood, I am glad he is not building a super modern home that would be out of place.

Welcome to the neighborhood Haigaz and family!

Abgar Danielian

GARO LACHINIAN

45 Shattuck Road

Watertown, Massachusetts 02472 USA

cell: +1(617) 549-9321 / home: +1(617) 924-2451 / e-mail: lachinian@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Watertown Historical Commission,

I am writing in strong support of Haigaz Markarian's request for relief from the Demolition Delay Ordinance and for the prompt approval of the permits necessary to begin renovations to his recently purchased home at 22 Stoneleigh Circle.

As the owner of a nearby home that has been in my family for three generations, I care deeply about preserving the character and quality of our neighborhood. Having reviewed Haigaz's plans, I believe his proposed renovation accomplishes both. The architectural drawings demonstrate that the renovated house will remain highly consistent with the existing structure in its style, design, rooflines, window proportions, exterior materials, and overall appearance. While the home will be larger and more functional for a modern family, it will retain the distinctive character that contributes to the neighborhood's historic appeal.

Equally important, Haigaz has made every effort to address the Commission's concerns and to respect the intent of Watertown's historic preservation goals. His plans comply with all current zoning requirements, and he is not seeking any variances or special exceptions. Rather than replacing the home with something out of character, he is investing substantial time, resources, and care into preserving and improving it.

The house itself requires significant work before it can safely accommodate his wife and three young children. Among other concerns, it contains asbestos-insulated heating equipment, lead paint, outdated knob-and-tube wiring, obsolete electrical systems, and second-floor conditions that do not meet modern expectations for safety and habitability. Delaying these improvements would serve neither the interests of the family nor the long-term preservation of the property.

I have known Haigaz both personally and professionally for years. As a licensed plumber, he has earned a reputation for integrity, professionalism, and quality workmanship. As a lifelong Watertown resident, he has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to our community. Educated in Watertown schools and deeply rooted here, he chose to raise his own family in the city he has called home since childhood. He is exactly the kind of resident and neighbor who strengthens our community and invests in its future.

The Commission's mission is to preserve and protect Watertown's historic resources. In my view, Haigaz Markarian's proposal advances that mission. It preserves the home's defining character, rehabilitates a property that has fallen into disrepair, and ensures that it will remain a valued part of the neighborhood for decades to come.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to approve Mr. Markarian's application and allow this project to proceed without unnecessary delay.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the City of Watertown.

Respectfully,



Garo Lachinian
45 Shattuck Road
Watertown
(617) 549-9321