



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Historic District Commission
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

Harvey Steiner, Chairperson
Linda Sternberg, Member
Lauren Soelch, Member
Jonathan Merin, Member
Petr Kuzmic, Member
Elizabeth K. Hayes, Member

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:00 PM- Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room

Members Present: Harvey Steiner, Linda Sternberg, Jonathan Merin, Petr Kuzmic, Elizabeth Hayes, Lauren Soelch

Staff Present: Gideon Schreiber, Susan Jenness

Also Present : Karen Kochar- 247 Mt. Auburn St, William Harden- 259 Mt. Auburn St.

Steiner opened the meeting with the second item on the agenda: 247 Mt. Auburn Street

- 1. Public Hearing- 247 Mt Auburn Street** for installation of permanent supporting posts and trim details on an existing, historic Porte Cochere. Haig Movsesian, Applicant; Ara J. Balikian Owner, Representative, Chair of Armenian General Benevolent Union, AGBU.

Kachar appeared at this hearing to focus on the trim details of the Porte cochere. Kachar showed samples that had been selected based on the recommendations made by the Historic District Commission (HDC) over the course of the last meetings.

Kuzmic said he was pleased with the sample of the trim presented by Kachar and that he could see that the options offered by the HDC at the last meeting were deeply taken into consideration.

Merin said they had definitely made very good progress, but that he could take issue with the piece that was selected as an addition to the assembly.

Kachar said they had done the absolute best they could and he offered to show the other choices that had been considered.

Steiner said he thought they could have chosen a rounder piece but agreed that what was being shown was a much better than where they had started. He also mentioned that the height of the molding could have been taller.

Kachar said that he will be in charge of the molding and will make sure that it matches the original molding in height.

Steiner thanked him and said he did not want the HDC to be known as difficult and explained they were here to try and offer solutions to assist residents how best to proceed with their projects.

Soelch reassured Kachar that the group could help him find a recommendation for pieces that would work for them in their project.

Commission Discussion

The HDC members agreed that construction season was coming to an end and they agreed they needed to make a decision at the meeting.

Merin who had located a piece of molding that fit all criteria urged the applicant to use the precedent set by the profile drafted for Movesian by Sternberg at the last meeting.

Hayes said she approved of the addition of the piece as picked out by Merin.

After thorough discussion a motion was made.

Motion: Merin made a motion to approve the assembly excluding the crown and chair rail for which the HDC had created an option for. Sternberg seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the assembly excluding the crown and chair rail for which the HDC had created an option for.

2. Minutes- from the September 6, 2018 meeting.

After a brief review the minutes of the September 5th meeting were approved.

Motion: Sternberg made a motion adopting the minutes from the September 6, 2018 meeting. Merin seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the minutes from the September 6, 2018 meeting.

3. Staff Update to Commission

a. 259 Mt. Auburn St.- Will Harden, Owner

Schreiber introduced Will Harden the owner of the house at 259 Mt. Auburn St. Schreiber explained that Harden was appearing before the HDC to discuss

an upcoming project he would like to propose to replace and restore various types of windows and doors seen from the public walkway.

Harden explained that he planned mostly restoration of the windows and then went on to discuss his thoughts and plans about the products he intended to do the work.

The HDC shared some informed with Harden and said they would see him for a public hearing before he moved forward with the project.

Harden said he will prepare his project application and file it in the Office of Historical Preservation to get on to the next HDC agenda.

- b. Schreiber explained that the owner and daughter of the Owner of the building at 260 Mt. Auburn St. had contacted the Planning Office and to inform the Town that they are interested in installing a sign identifying the address of the building.

The HDC informally discussed some ideas they thought of for signage at this particular building. There was some agreement that it would look nice to have an awning hanging over the entranceway with the address of the building showing clearly from a distance.

Schreiber said that the Planning Office will update the HDC as plans for the signage develop.

- c. The HDC asked to put an item on the agenda of the next meeting allowing for the discussion of the Design Guidelines in compliance with the Open Meeting Laws.

Motion: Sternberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Merin seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.