Minutes

Historic District Commission

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

7:00p.m.

Third Floor Conference

Members Present: Steiner, Chairman

Sternberg

Carter

Staff Present: Hayward, Collins

Public Present: See Attached Sign –In Form

1. **Public Hearing – Certificate of Appropriateness – 80 Mount Auburn Street - Signage Replacement, Trustees of St. John's United Methodist Church**

Jeff Fugate, 14 Bates #1 and St. John's United Methodist representative, informed that the church wished to replace the old sign with a MDF-wood composite sign. He felt a new sign would be more attractive. Information regarding schedule changes to church services would be done with a pegs changing system. Steiner felt that the sign would be difficult to read from the street. Fugate agreed that the font may need to go larger for visibility but that would be worked out later. The church wanted the new sign for Easter.

Steiner liked the sign and felt it was an improvement over the old sign. However, he felt that the sign should be functional and readable.

Carter thought the proposed sign was an improvement. She questioned whether a wood sign had been considered. Fugate responded that a wood sign would be cost prohibitive.

Carter thought the sign at the Church of the Good Shepherd was a good example of a wood sign she'd like to see.

Sternberg liked the sign. She also felt that since the sign was not a permanent fixture and an improvement, she could approve the sign.

Steiner felt that the proposed sign was boxy. He questioned whether air room could be added to the side of the sign. He suggested that the sign be readable.

Fugate suggested that sconces could be added to the top to reflect the shape in the church. He reported that the top board is pressure treated.

The HDC suggested that the applicant come back with the sign finalized to the next meeting which will be on March 6.

Vote: Sternberg moved to continue the item at the Special HD meeting on March 6. Carter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. **January Minutes –** approved**.**

3. **Signage**

Hayward will meet with Mee regarding possible signage for the District**.** Hayward reported that he will check in with Cemusa about the status of the District bus shelter signage, and will talk with Watson about contacting Cemusa.

4. **Old Business**

District Annual Letter – Steiner will develop a letter for the HDC to review at the March meeting.

Vacancies - Collins will contact the Town Manager's Officer about recruiting new members for the HDC vacancies, in particular, one with architectural experience.

5. Public Comment

Dennis Duff, 33 Spruce Street, wondered why Watertown's bus shelters weren't as nice as the ones in Belmont. He suggested that state funds for bus shelter improvements be requested from the local state representatives - Tolman and Kaprielian.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.