

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Thomas Melone, Susan Steele, Marilynn K. Roach, David Russo, Joseph Panto, Donald Berg

Member(s) Absent: Elise Loukas

Staff Present: Gideon Schreiber, Susan C. Jenness (adopted on 11/9/17)

David J. Russo opened the meeting.

- 1. Public Hearing- 259 Edenfield Ave.** To consider the Demolition Permit Application submitted for a single family, ranch style home with brick veneer and an asphalt sheet roof built in 1952, with a detached 10 x 12' tool shed. Proposed is a 2 unit condominium. Cardillo Development/ Owner, Anthony G. Cardillo, III, Applicant.

Anthony Cardillo appeared to review the project that he is working on with his father and son, Michael and Tony.

Cardillo researched the history of the home and discovered that the house was built by Cornelius Piantadosi after having been commissioned by the very first owner, Lawrence Natoli on April 25, 1951. Francis Hannigan bought the house in 1956 and lived at that address until around 2000. Ara Bourouian was the following owner, and lived there until recently. Cardillo did not find the research historically significant.

Cardillo reported that the existing structure has no architectural or historical significance. He found similarities in this structure and the houses across the street, and some on Bradshaw and Orchard St. This house, he said is not the last of its kind in Watertown.

Proposed in this project are 2 new construction townhouses. The Cardillos pulled key details from the exterior of the surrounding homes, such as gables and a hip roof from a single family home with an addition. Where this project involves a corner lot, they plan to be meticulous by giving it inviting entrances from both sides.

Russo commented that it was good to have an entrance feel on the Bradshaw St. which is on the corner of the proposed new construction.

Public Comments

Carl Paulsen a local resident who saw the legal notice in the newspaper stepped forward to ask questions about the existing building being made out of brick veneer.

Steele commented that the height of this new building would be significant and that this is a T-Zone with a lot of knock downs.

Melone added that this is an urban design that will be going in, and the existing house has no distinctions.

Panto said that the lot was good sized.

Russo explained that the Comprehensive Plan talks about preserving the neighborhoods but this one is already compromised.

Berg said that the precedent has already been sent.

Motion: Melone made a motion that the house at 259 Edenfield Ave. is not preferably preserved. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached that the house at 259 Edenfield Ave. is not preferably preserved.

2. Minutes- from September 14, 2017 Historical Commission Meeting.

Motion: Melone made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting as modified. Roach seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adopt the minutes from the September 14, 2017 HC meeting.

3. Commission Discussion- 76 Emerson St-Letter of Request by Connor Maguire seeking to reappear before the HC.

Russo explained that he was contacted by Steve Magoon and informed about a letter that was written by Connor Maguire to Chris Hayward, the Preservation Agent. The letter contained a request for an opportunity to re-appear before the HC about their finding the house at 76 Emerson St. was preferably preserved.

Russo was informed that he could make the decision himself about whether or not to grant Maguire's request for an additional appearance before the HC. Russo said instead, he wanted to give the entire commission a chance to consider the request, together along with him.

Steele asked if any new information had become available about this issue since June of 2017, when it was reviewed by the HC.

Russo asked for a copy of the letter but there was not one available to read aloud into the record.

The discussion was continued for the November meeting when each member of the HC had a chance to read the letter written by Maguire.

- 4. Commission Discussion-** Discuss duties and hold an election of a new Chairperson for the Historical Commission and potential Vice Chairperson.

Steele began the discussion by stating that she felt Loukas was very articulate and able to hold her own even when under the pressure that is sometimes associated with public meetings before the HC. She said that she is also impressed with her legal experience, and thought this would be a good set of skills for a Chairperson.

HC member Don Berg announced his decision to step down from the commission by the close of 2017. Members of the board said that they would miss his presence after so many years, and that his experience as a builder would be sorely missed during future public meetings.

The conversation around electing a new Chairperson and potential Vice Chair was continued until the November 9, 2017 meeting.

- 5. Discussion Items from September 14, 2017 meeting.**

- a. Discussion led by Russo about organizing a group of HC members to visit the East Branch Library to inspect the contents for items that have potential historical preservation value.

Russo said he will contact Steve Magoon and tell him he is setting up a sub-committee to take a site visit at the East Branch Library to review items in storage. He will try to work with Magoon to set up a date and will report back to the HC next month. Melone and Steele agreed to be part of the sub-committee.

- b. Informational Discussion-Update for the Historical Commission on the latest Community Preservation Act (CPA) developments and discussion on selecting a member from the Historical Commission for the CPA Committee.

Russo explained that there will be one member from the HC who will be selected to take a seat on the Community Preservation Act Committee, (CPA Committee). He explained that taking this seat will mean that the individual who is selected will be attending an additional night meeting.

The CPA member from the HC will take part in reviewing and voting on the projects that are being presented before the CPA Committee, prior to being referred to town council for review and a vote.

Roach informed the HC that Lisa Feltner had contacted her that afternoon looking for a high resolution seal for the town to be applied to the front of the

town website currently under re-design. Russo suggested that they might be able to find some nice historical photographs of the town to post up on the web site as thumb nail shots on the home page, or for the background.

6. Motion: Berg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8 PM. Roach seconded the motion.

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