

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, December 8, 2011
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted January 12, 2012

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Jr., J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan T. Steele, Donald S. Berg, Thomas Melone

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Daphne M. Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

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

1. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit – 43 Bigelow Avenue to demolish a single-family structure to convert the site into an outdoor playground serving St. Stephen’s Nursery School. Applicant: Ara Krafian; Owner: St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church.

Ara Krafian, representative of applicant reported that the demolition is part of a Master Plan for St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church and School. The plan is to move the school’s playground to the 43 Bigelow site. The existing playground is located on Elton Street and a similar playground structure will be located at 43 Bigelow. According to Krafian the building was built in 1893 and is presently owned by the Church.

Jones noted that the structure was an example of a worker’s cottage from the 1890’s. However, the period neighborhood is no longer evident. He thought the architectural example was not unique and that it has undergone many changes over the years.

Russo reported that the house was built in 1892, originally owned by Willard Chamberlain, a farmer. It’s sited diagonally because it fronted a street that ran in front of it. That street no longer exists.

Vote: Berg moved to determine that 43 Bigelow Street is not preferably preserved. Loukas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. October Minutes – Approved.

3. Watertown Historical Commission Update

Russo provided ordinance language derived from other communities which addressed the transfer and time periods for HC’s determinations for demolition. Application fees will be looked into. Item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

4. Old Business

- **Signage** –Russo is getting quotes for the replacement of the priority stolen plaques. The price does not include installation. New quotes will be sought which will include the installation costs. The replacement materials for the Commander's Mansion plaques will be bronze. All other plaques will be replaced with granite ones to prevent and discourage future thievery.
- **77 Riverside Landmark** – The Landmark status of 77 Riverside was approved by Town Council. The owners have applied for an historic plaque. The Landmark status will be reflected in the plaque.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.