



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

Elise Loukas, Chairperson
David Russo, Vice Chairperson
Thomas Melone, Member
Susan Steele, Member
Marilynne K. Roach, Member
Joseph Panto, Member
Matthew Walter, Member

Minutes: Thursday, February 14, 2019 Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room 7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Elise Loukas, Chair, Marilynne Roach, Matthew Walter, Thomas Melone, David Russo, Vice Chair

Member(s) Absent: Susan Steele, Joseph Panto

Public Present: Mathew McNeff

Staff Present: Gideon Schreiber, Susan C. Jenness

1. Minutes- From January 11, 2019 Historical Commission Meeting.

After a brief discussion a motion was made to adopt the minutes from January as modified.

Motion: A motion was made by Russo to adopt the minutes as modified.
Roach seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached adopting the minutes as modified.

2. Discussion Items

a. Historic Preservation Awards 2019

The Board asked that the Commanders Mansion be booked for the Historic Preservation Awards for Thursday night, May 16, 2019 at 7 PM. In the alternative, they agreed that May 23rd would be second choice. Once the date is booked, nomination packages will go out into the public through the Office of Historical Preservation, the town website, and "Notify Me" to Historic Preservation subscribers.

Town Staff and the Commission will work to publicize the event through media, flyers, announcements on the Town website, newflash and other outlets that may be determined at a later time.

Nominations for the event will be due on April 3rd so that the Historical Commission can vote at the April meeting, and then Town staff can notify the award recipients and begin assisting the winners to get their audio/visual presentations into Community Development and Planning for integration into the ceremony presentation.

Town staff will work with the Commanders Mansion to find a local caterer that has not had a chance to serve the guests at the annual awards ceremony yet.

b. Update on 41 Paul St.

Russo passed around an advertisement he saw on the internet for the rental of 41 Paul St. which had been reviewed by the board at a public hearing on January 11th. After the public hearing on January 11, 2019, the Commission determined that the building was preferably preserved. A one year delay was imposed by the Commission to give the applicant/owner time to find an alternative to demolishing the building.

During the January 11th public hearing, Russo who had done research on the history and architecture of the home stated that “There is an important place for people like Kingston, the builder, in Watertown’s history. Historic significance is not limited to rich people and those architects who design high-styled buildings. Watertown has always had a diversity of inhabitants from workers to managers to owners. The development of Watertown reflects this diversity and significance. Forty-one Paul Street is a simple and elegant home designed by an important architect for a specific need: starter housing. The development of Watertown reflects its diversity and 41 Paul Street appears to me to retain its important connections to the town’s development in 1909 and the working class values that underpin it.”

Schreiber, Senior Planner for the Town informed Russo that he and the Director of the Department, Steve Magoon plan to reach out to the applicant and owner, Mr. Ohan. Schreiber said that he and Magoon will invite Ohan to discuss alternatives with them that do not include demolition.

Motion: Russo made a motion at 7:40 PM to adjourn the meeting. Walter and Melone seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.