

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Thomas Melone, Susan Steele, David Russo, Joseph Panto, Elise Loukas, Marilynne Roach, Matthew Walter

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Andrea Adams, Susan C. Jenness

Elise Loukas, the new elected Chairperson of the Historical Commission opened the meeting and explained the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission.

1. **Public Hearing- 31 Charles St.-** to consider the Demolition Permit Application submitted for an existing single family cape style house with vinyl siding and an asphalt roof, built in approximately 1960. New two family home is proposed. Kane Built, Inc., Owners/ Heather Dorey, Applicant

Heather Dorey appeared to represent Kane Builders. She reviewed information about the existing structure and history with the HC.

Melone asked how tall the wall behind the structure would be. Dorey explained that the wall will go up and it will be graded into the existing structure.

Russo was curious if they had explored building off of the back of the building. Dorey said that would not be feasible for what they wanted to achieve.

Steele asked if it would be taller than 27-29 Charles St. Dorey said it would not be.

Loukas explained that she had to contact the office of Historical Preservation to ask for a meeting package, containing the project plans, to be emailed that day because her own never arrived by US mail. Loukas said she wanted to poll the HC to ask when and if they had received their HC packages. Most of the group had yet to receive their meeting documents and were sharing with others.

Loukas asked if they felt they had enough time to adequately understand the project well enough to weigh in on a vote that was fair to the applicant. Most admitted that they would like to have more time.

Loukas and Russo, the Vice Chairperson asked the HC if they would like to continue the public hearing until the meeting in February. Most of the commission agreed that would be a good idea.

Steele asked Ms. Dorey if continuing the hearing until the following month would cause a hardship to her and Kane Builders. Ms. Dorey said that it would not.

Adams, Senior Planner explained that it would be in the purview of the HC to continue the hearing. She also asked the HC if any of the members had an impression at the current time of anything they would like to see modify between now and the next meeting. There were no comments of that nature.

Melone said that he felt it would be very helpful to get out to see the site for any members who had not done so yet.

Motion: Russo made a motion to continue the public meeting on 31 Charles St. to the February 8, 2018 meeting to allow the entire board to review the site and plans as thoroughly as needed to make a fair decision for the applicant. Panto seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to continue the hearing on 31 Charles St. to the February 8, 2018 meeting.

2. **Public Hearing – 166 Waverley Ave.** – Request for authorization to review the demolition of a wooden garage, built in approximately 1926, which was previously demolished without a permit. No new structure is proposed. Traolach Cahillane, Owner/Applicant

When the hearing was called for 166 Waverley Ave., there was no owner or applicant to present to review the project.

A brief discussion was held about whether or not to continue the hearing for 166 Waverley Ave. to the February 11, 2018 meeting. The following steps were outlined.

1. Continue the hearing until the February 11, 2018 meeting as the HC had not had adequate time to review the filings submitted by the owner.
2. Move forward with the hearing even if no one showed for the applicant.
3. If no one shows up to represent the applicant in February, remove the petition from the agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Roach to continue the public hearing on 166 Waverley until the February 11, 2018 meeting on the grounds that most of the HC had not received their meeting packages which were delayed because of the severe snow storm the previous week. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to continue the public meeting on 166 Waverley Ave.

3. Minutes- December 14, 2017 Historical Commission (HC) Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Russo to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 HC meeting. Melone seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the minutes from the December 14, 2017 meeting.

4. Discussion Items

a. East Branch Library Update

Marilynne Roach went to the East Branch Library and met with Tom Tracy and some college student volunteers who were there on the morning of January 11, to clean out more old, unusable material. She took a look at some of the items being discarded. She said she learned some World War II documents were being saved for the Veterans Agent. She also said some tax records will be held until August to be given to the Watertown Free Public Library.

The HC would like to know where the items being held until August will be stored.

b. Orchard House Update

Russo said he will look into greater detail whether or not the window is officially repaired or not.

5. New Business

a. Russo and Loukas asked the clerk to find out about the repairs at Orchard House for next meeting.

b. Russo and Loukas asked the clerk to find out the Landmark Status of 77 Riverside St. for the next meeting.

Motion: Russo made a motion at 8:00 PM to close the meeting. Melone seconded the motion

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached closing the meeting at 8:00 PM.

