

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, April 12, 2018
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Andrea Adams, Susan C. Jenness

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

1. Moment of Silence in Memory of Kenneth Thompson, Watertown Building Inspector
2. **Public Hearing Continuation– 171-173 Summer Street:** An existing two family colonial style house with vinyl siding and an asphalt roof, including a tool shed, built in approximately 1945. Two town house units are being proposed. Joseph Deodato, Owner/Applicant

Antonio Deodato, the brother of the applicant appeared to answer questions for the HC.

Loukas read the letter of Determination that was issued on January 24, 2012, and based on the decision made by the HC at the public hearing at that time.

Mr. Deodato explained that the plans proposed at this time were the same plans that were proposed in 2012. Adams, the Senior Planner for the town confirmed that the plans appeared exactly the same.

Deodato explained that the project was put off because of issues with the timing of tenants residing at the premises. He explained that it was important to have the project move forward at this time because updates are badly needed to improve the quality of life to the tenants who have to go out doors to change fuses when needed.

Steele requested information about the materials siding the proposed building. Deodato said that the building will likely be sided with vinyl. She suggested that Hardie Board would be favorable.

Loukas asked if there were more questions from the HC and again referred to the letter of determination from January 24, 2012.

Melone said he was struck by how the tenants need to go outside to change fuses at the house and wondered if this house had been a single family at one time and was changed.

Russo offered to make a motion.

Motion: Russo made a motion that the building at 171-173 was not preferably preserved. Melone seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached supporting Russo's motion that the building at 171-173 was not preferably preserved.

3. **Public Hearing- 33 Hudson Street:** An existing one family cape style house with vinyl siding and an asphalt roof, built in approximately 1952. Two town house units are being proposed. Robert LeBlanc, Owner/Applicant

LeBlanc appeared to review the project with the HC. He confirmed the house was built in 1952 as a single family. He pointed out that 24, 25 and 22 Hudson were all two family homes.

LeBlanc said the height of the proposed structure is in keeping with the surrounding houses and the entrances are in the front of the building. He has cleaned up and simplified the gables and provided driveway parking on each side of the house. The proposed structure is expected to be significantly smaller than the house across the street.

Melone asked about the back of the house structure where the ground appeared to slope downward. LeBlanc said there were 5 stairs that lead down into the basement and Zoning does not allow more than 27 feet out back to the rear of the house.

Leblanc explained to Russo that the exterior cladding will be vinyl or Hardy Board. Russo said he felt it was more of a Hardie Board neighborhood.

There were no public comments.

Melone said there was no unusual architectural value to the house and that the street is predominantly 2 family houses with some rather long 1 family houses. He said he had no objections to the proposed project and no objection to the timing of the project.

Steele thought it was similar in color and details to the surrounding homes, and was happy with the attention to details.

Pantos agreed with Melone about the project.

Roach said that replacing a single family home with a 2 family impacts the style of the neighborhood.

Loukas said the existing house was adorable but she felt it was not the time to save it.

Russo said this was a modest single in a working class neighborhood. He explained that what we realize here is that this house represents a change from blue collar to white collar. He clarified that the house appeared to be in original architectural condition with original windows and clapboards.

As to the proposed project, Walter echoed Susan and David and agreed that vinyl may be cheaper, but more articulation in the texture of the material would be better. He said he felt that more housing is needed now and making 2 houses of out one is not a problem to him.

Motion: Melone made a motion that the house at 33 Hudson St. was not preferably preserved. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached that the house at 33 Hudson St. was not preferably preserved.

4. Minutes- from February 8, 2018 Historical Commission Meeting

The minutes from February were approved after a review.

Motion: Russo made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Loukas seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the minutes of the February 8, 2018 Historical Commission meeting.

5. Historical Preservation Awards Planning-2018

- a. Publication of Notice in Watertown Tab: Confirmed
- b. Creation of Event Flyer - Panto agreed to work on a flyer for the event that could be hung around town and posted to the town calendar once it was reviewed by town management.
- c. Review of nominations and vote for 2018 Historical Preservation Awards recipients
After review of the nominations before them the Historical Commission agreed to grant the following Historical Preservation Awards by unanimous motions.
- d. The HC voted unanimously to present a certificate of appreciation to Don Berg to recognize him for his years of service as a member on the Historical Commission.

The Richard E. Mastrangelo Memorial Award

Kenneth E. Thompson- "Posthumous Recognition for distinguished and dedicated service to Watertown as the Building Inspector of 13 years"

Architectural Preservation Award

Anthony Fox and Sarah Holcomb- "The Restoration of 115 Marshall St.- The Henry Chase House"

Environmental Presentation Award

Athenahealth- "Soil Remediation- West Garage Parcel in the Arsenal on the Charles Campus Master Plan"

Community Spirit Award

Dick O'Connor- "Watertown Tab Article on the History of Victory Field"

Historical Resources Preservation Award

Cara Marcus

"Watertown Square through Time"

Historical Resources Preservation Award

Rosemarie Smurzynski

"Mt. Auburn Cemetery Tour highlighting Watertown Women"

Service to Youth Award

Boy Scout Troup 30 and Cub Scout Troop 30

"100th Anniversary"

Eric Cordeiro and Taylor Boas

The awards ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Commanders Mansion on May 17, 2018 at 7 PM. The clerk will notify all award recipients by letter and plan the ceremony accordingly.

6. Discussion Items-

- a. East Branch Library Update: Items have been moved to a small box at the Police Station for review by interested members of the HC on May 31, 2018 at 3:30 PM.
- b. Orchard House Update: Progress on Historical Commission site visit to create punch list of repair items- Steve Magoon is working on setting up a meeting for a walk through with interested members of the HC.
- c. 77 Riverside Landmark Designation/Registration Update- Gideon Schreiber has been in touch with Ernesta who agreed to pick up the envelope with the deed to bring it to the registry of deeds.
- d. Letter from Historical Commission: Sent in of Support of Gore Estate for a Massachusetts Historical Commission 2018 Preservation Grant. Loukas reviewed the letter that was collectively sent to Massachusetts Historical Commission in support of a proposed project at Gore Estate.

Motion: Russo made a motion to adjourn the HC meeting at 7:45. Roach seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM