



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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David B. Cohen
Mayor

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS CHESTNUT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

DATE: July 17, 2008

PLACE/TIME: City Hall, Room 202
7:30pm

ATTENDING: Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member
Brian Lever, Staff
See Attendance List

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Voting permanent members were Dostale and McMullin. Alternate members Perry and Winer also voted. The meeting was taped on 1 tape.

11 Clovelly Road– Reapplication for Certificate of Appropriateness

The applicant presented information on the previous approved submission for a new addition to the second floor deck in January 2007. The commission moved to reissue the certificate for appropriateness for an additional year.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on July 19, 2008 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0

RESOLVED to reissue certificate of appropriateness for an additional year based upon the previous application for a new addition to the second floor deck..

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member

170 Suffolk Road– Working Session

No applicant was present and this item was skipped. No action taken.

Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission
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314 Hammond Street – Certificate of Appropriateness

Boston College presented a proposal to remove an existing pergola at this property and replace with a like structure at a later date. Perry noted that the pergola looked different than he had remembered as part of a formal garden at this property. Mark Lewis architect for Boston College stated that changes had been made in part to resupport the structure and provide a roof. Perry asked if the pergola was structurally sound? Lewis responded no. Lewis stated that BC plans to restore the garden and use it in concert with the improved playground at 47 Stone Ave but that the existing pergola posed a hazard both with its condition and the possibility of it having lead paint. Commission members expressed interest in restoring the pergola. Lewis responded that BC could replicate it at a later date. Staff stated that the commission would have review whenever the structure was replaced.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on July 17, 2008 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0

RESOLVED to grant a certificate of appropriateness for the removal of the pergola subject to it being replaced in kind at a later date and recognizing its historic significance.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member

47 Stone Avenue – Certificate of Appropriateness

Mark Lewis from Boston College presented a plan to renovate the playground at the Boston College day care center. According to Lewis the current playground is outdated and does not meet ADA compliance. Commission members expressed support for the new playground and inquired about its visibility. Lewis responded that the playground would not extend further toward Stone Avenue and that there were plantings incorporated in the design to reduce visibility. Commission members inquired about the two sheds proposed to be installed. Perry suggested that the exterior of the sheds and the pitch of the roofs match the existing building. Lewis stated that one of the sheds would not be readily visible located behind the building but that BC would replicate the exterior of the building on the sheds. Dostale and Perry also stated that the sheds should match each other.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on July 17, 2008 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0

RESOLVED to grant a certificate of appropriateness for replacement of the playground equipment as submitted with the requirement that the proposed sheds match the exterior of the former carriage house in exterior material and roof pitch as well as match each other.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member

121 Suffolk Road—Certificate of Appropriateness

This is a continuation of a previous hearing. Further information was provided regarding the proposed changes to the porch. The new design incorporated an open railing as suggested at the June meeting. A letter addressed to the commission by abutter Thomas Auchincloss concerning the proposed driveway was read by commission members. Commission members inquired about the driveway proposal. Architect for the applicants Ivan Bereznicki described the proposed driveway and stated that it was not clear at this time whether or not the applicants would pursue having a driveway installed. Bereznicki also stated that the new roof would consist of Timberline shingles. Staff stated that the driveway could be reviewed at a later date in a separate application.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on July 17, 2008 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0

RESOLVED to grant a certificate of appropriateness for the application as submitted excluding the driveway and with the request that a material sample for the proposed Timberline shingle roof be submitted.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member

428 Hammond Street—Certificate of Appropriateness

Steve Tobolsky Head of the Chestnut Hill School presented a landscape plan including expansion of playing field, addition of pathways, addition of seating, addition of stone walls, and other improvements. Glen Valentine landscape architect stated that the proposed hillside seating would be granite and the outdoor stage would be a pervious paver system. Valentine stated that some of the changes were too improve drainage. The woodland classroom is proposed to have fieldstone walls seating a maximum of 30 people and will also have a native garden. The proposed stonedust path will be graded to meet ADA compliance. McMullin asked if more of the school would be visible as a result of these changes? Valentine stated no and that most likely less would be visible with the new plantings proposed. Dostale asked what kind of grade changes were proposed? Valentine stated that no more than a 2-foot grade change would be needed. Perry stated that he was concerned about the visibility of the hillside seating interfering with the historic character of the area as open land.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on July 17, 2008 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0

RESOLVED to grant a certificate of appropriateness for the application as submitted.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair
Lois McMullin, Member
Sam Perry, Alternate Member
Merle Winer, Alternate Member

116 Chestnut Hill Road – Certificate of Appropriateness

Lee Silverstone architect for the applicant presented plans to infill an existing patio with a new wall for the addition of a bathroom. Winer stated that this was barely visible. Staff stated that due to topography the addition of the new wall would be only partially visible. Perry stated that the proposed window was differed than the existing windows adjacent to it. Silverstone stated that the proposed window was similar to an existing window on the other side of the house and as well as having the diamond grid desiring the applicant was considering using stained glass as it would be a bathroom window.

RESOLVED to grant a certificate of appropriateness for the application as submitted with the applicant having the option of using stained glass in the proposed window.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Joyce Dostale, Acting Chair

Lois McMullin, Member

Sam Perry, Alternate Member

Merle Winer, Alternate Member

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

No action was taken on 26 Acacia Avenue, or Other Business: approval of minutes and elections.

Recorded by Brian Lever, Commission Staff

Minutes approved at 8/21/08 meeting.