



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development

Michael J. Kruse, Director

Telephone

(617)-796-1120

Telefax

(617) 796-1142

David B. Cohen
Mayor

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

DATE: September 17, 2009

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

ATTENDING: Liviu Brill Vice-Chair William Roesner, Member
Lois McMullin, Member Joyce Dostale, Member
Peter Vieira, Alternate
Brian Lever, Staff
See Attendance List

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with Liviu Brill presiding as Acting Chair. Voting permanent members were Brill, Roesner, McMullin, and Dostale. Alternate member Vieira also voted. The meeting was taped on one tape.

134 Chestnut Hill Road – Certificate of Appropriateness

Architect David O’Sullivan presented an application to install four lighted stone piers at the driveway entrances. O’Sullivan stated that the proposed lanterns on the piers would match the existing light fixtures on the home. Vieira asked if the additional lighting was needed? O’Sullivan stated that the property owners wished to identify the driveway entrances. O’Sullivan further stated that piers were designed to relate to the existing stone walls on the property. Brill stated that the piers appeared too heavy and suggested that driveway lighting consist of a soft light. Vieira stated that the piers appeared out of character and take away from the sense of openness in the neighborhood. Vieira motioned to deny the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness and Roesner seconded.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on September 17, 2009 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 5-0,

RESOLVED to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted due to the incongruity of the stone piers with the character of the district, specifically the openness of the gardens and lawns. FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission provides the following recommendations for resubmittal (1) that the applicant consider freestanding light fixtures instead of stone piers and (2) that the applicant consider smaller stone piers.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Liviu Brill Vice-Chair William Roesner, Member
Lois McMullin, Member Joyce Dostale, Member
Peter Vieira, Alternate

137 Suffolk Road – Certificate of Appropriateness

Property owner Lisle Baker presented an application to replace existing wooden stockade fencing, replace an existing grape arbor, and install a new wooden picket fence. Commissioners noted that the

grape arbor would not be visible, the new picket fence would be minimally visible, and the stockade fence would be replaced in kind. Dostale motioned to approve the application as submitted and Roesner seconded.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on September 17, 2009 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 5-0,

RESOLVED to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted.

Voting in the Affirmative:

Liviu Brill Vice-Chair William Roesner, Member
Lois McMullin, Member Joyce Dostale, Member
Peter Vieira, Alternate

26 Acacia Avenue – Certificate of Appropriateness

James Jumes presented an application to install a new basement window. Jumes also withdrew his request to install a new door in place of a window on the approved garage addition. The Commission discussed the potential changes. Commission members suggested a bulkhead or other exit from the basement. Jumes stated that he was investigating other exit options. Brill stated that the proposed window was not a safe option for exiting the basement in an emergency. Brill noted inconsistencies in the drawings including what appeared to be an expansion of the watertable. Vieira noted that the alignment of the windows was also different. Jumes stated that these were errors in the drawings. Roesner suggested that the proposed window should have a casing that matches the other windows and that it have eight lites (4/4). Roesner motioned to approve the application in concept and McMullin seconded.

At a scheduled meeting and public hearing on September 17, 2009 the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, by vote of 4-0-1,

RESOLVED to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the application as submitted with the following requirements, (1) that the proposed aluminum clad window have a casing matching the other windows on the home and have four over four lites, (2) that a revised drawing be submitted for final approval, and (3) that the applicant investigate a bulkhead or other means of safe egress from the basement.

Voting in the Affirmative:

William Roesner, Member
Lois McMullin, Member
Joyce Dostale, Member
Peter Vieira, Alternate

Abstaining from vote:

Liviu Brill, Vice-Chair

Other Business:

26 Acacia Avenue

The Commission offered informal comments on proposed driveway and walkway alterations. The Commission supported brick for the walkway and stated it would need a materials sample in order to approve an application for altering the driveway.

The Commission unanimously approved the minutes from August of 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20. Minutes approved at the October 15th meeting.

Recorded by Brian Lever, Commission Staff