

## Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – February 3, 2020

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. – 8:51 p.m.

**Members Present:** Ben Franklin, Chair; Jer Jurma; Sylvia Belkin, alternate; Richard Smith

**Members Absent:** Andrew Steingiser

**Location:** Swampscott Police Station, 535 Humphrey Street

The public hearing was video recorded.

- 1) **Certificate of Appropriateness for 4 Sheridan Terrace (20HDC-01)** – Request to replace glass in sidelights and front door with stained glass installation. The applicant/homeowners, Michael Walsh and Karen Batt, were present. The artist, Ingrid Pichler, was also present.

Mr. Walsh gave a brief overview of the project. Ms. Pichler explained that most of the existing glass has been replaced and is not original to the house, although she plans to reuse what she can in the process.

The Board and Ms. Pichler discussed methodology of creating stained glass. She will be using older techniques more traditional to the time period.

J. Jurma noted he appreciates the historical documentation provided as well as the use of a local artist. The project is in keeping with the structure.

R. Smith asked whether a storm panel was considered to go over the glass to protect it. Ms. Pichler stated the glass is very sturdy – made to last approx. 100 years – and the storm panel would take away from the visual.

B. Franklin noted the directions in the design guidelines; as there is no change to the systems, and as the committee does not consider this mirrored or tinted glass, and as the project is appropriate in style and technique, he has no issues.

There were two speakers for public comment.

Doris Long, an abutter, spoke against the proposal stating it will change the look of the neighborhood and the house and she does not feel its appropriate.

Naomi and Tom Dreeben, abutters, spoke in support of the project.

Ms. Pichler noted that you used to find these sorts of designs on older homes and they are considered like a piece of jewelry on a house, as opposed to cosmetic surgery that changes character.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve the COA as submitted. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

- 2) **Certificate of Appropriateness for 145 Elmwood Road (20HDC-02)** – request to renovate kitchen and convert a second-floor bedroom into a master bath and laundry room. The proposed work will affect the façade facing east and south toward the property and will result in a change in the number and position of windows on both. New windows, where needed, will match the style & trim of existing windows. The project includes the removal of the chimney and addition of a hood vent on the eastern side. Note: This application also includes a CONA request for the work taking place out of view of a public way. Applicant and homeowner Doug Larose was present, with project team members Justin Kurtz and Kyle Barnard.

Mr. Larose gave an overview of the project and what is happening on the interior which affects the exterior. The back of the house has been renovated over time and is not original; the goal is to bring back some of those details. There is a change in window placement and type on the rear and on the side of the house.

J. Jurma noted that the chimneys in this case are not an architectural feature of the house and doesn't impact the historic aspect of the property. There is precedence for removal of chimney's similar to this.

The two kitchen windows and shower window on the side of the house were discussed. R. Smith would like to see the trim profiles, sills, and casings replicated and the window shutters installed correctly. The applicant stated they will do that, and they will have wood shutters.

The Board members discussed the proposed hood vent on the side of the house. It will be copper and the applicant provided specifications that will be conditioned.

The Board members discussed and concluded that the rear portion of the house is not viewable from a public way, therefore they do not have jurisdiction over the work proposed.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve the COA with the following conditions:

- 1) Trim and detail of windows to match original
- 2) Shutters to be wood, sized to windows, and installed to match existing operating shutters and town guidelines regarding house shutters
- 3) The hood vent shall be copper or lead (painted to match siding), 10-inch round, 13"x13" and 1 inch flange

Seconded by R. Smith; unanimously approved.

### 3) Other Business

A member of the public came to discuss a potential home project prior to applying for a COA to the Commission.

Ms. O'Connell gave a brief update on the MBTA Train Depot, an upcoming Essex Heritage grant application, and the Fish House.

Meeting adjourned: 8:51 p.m.

Molly O'Connell  
Senior Planner