

Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – November 4, 2019

Time: 7:33 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Andrew Steingiser

Location: Swampscott Police Station, 535 Humphrey Street

The public hearing of the Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

The public hearing was video recorded.

- 1) **19HDC-87 (3 Devens Road)** – Replacement of six (6) windows to match existing. Applicant had a scheduling conflict and asked to continue to December. Notices were previously sent.

MOTION: J. Jurma to continue 19HDC-87 until the December 2nd meeting; seconded by R. Smith, unanimously continued.

- 2) **19HDC-89 (121 Elmwood Road)** – Replacement of nine (9) original wooden windows with Renewal by Anderson windows.

No one was present for the application. The Commission Chair tabled the item until later in the meeting.

This item was called again at 8:21 p.m. No one was present for the application. The Commission expressed concerns about the items submitted and asked staff to make sure that the work had not already been permitted. They also requested additional information from the applicant, including more visuals of the windows and proof of substantive deterioration. The Commission decided to continue to the December meeting to give the applicant a chance to come in and provide more; if a no-show in December, then the item will be considered withdrawn.

MOTION: R. Smith to continue the 19HDC-89 to the December meeting; Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously continued.

- 3) **19HDC-91 (130 Walker Road)** – Addition of a new fence in the side yard.

Carlos Umpierre, applicant and owner, was present for the application. Pictures were provided. There is an existing fence that encroaches onto his property line – he is proposed to put the fence along his actual property line. The proposed fence is a cedar stockade and will be placed behind the front corner of the house and run towards the rear lot line.

The Board noted the fence will run in a narrow area between the two houses and will be largely obstructed from view.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve 19HDC-91 with a condition that the front of the fence be placed approximately 7 feet behind the front façade of the home. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

- 4) **19HDC-95 (22 Monument Avenue)** – Installation of a sign for the pollinator garden, located on Town Hall lawn. Toni Bandrowicz from the Swampscott Conservancy was present to answer questions. The Conservancy is dedicated to improving access and education about conservation land and open space in the Town. Other projects include trail maintenance. The Conservancy requested the ability to put in a pollinator garden where there used to be a rose garden, and the garden was installed this summer. The sign marks the area as a pollinator garden and monarch waystation.

B. Franklin noted that signs on private property don't necessarily have to come before the Commission, but as this is located on Town property it does.

Overall, the Commission loves the idea of the garden. Concerns were raised about sign placement, and the Commission members ultimately recommended that the sign be placed in the garden and be shorter in height. The post material was discussed, but as this will be located in a garden and be fairly short, wood was not seen as a viable option. The Commission recommended green metal which will ultimately be covered when the garden fills in.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve 19HDC-95 with the following conditions: 1) that the sign is located within the flower bed, 2) that the top of the sign is lower than the lower course of cap on the rear brick, and 3) the post is green metal. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

- 5) **19HDC-96 (9 Monument Avenue)** – Installation of a little free library in Linscott Park. Stephen Whipple, applicant, was present for the application. This is a part of his Eagle Scout Project. He has met with the library as well and they are supportive of the project. The goal is to spread the idea of reading throughout Town.

B. Franklin asked about ongoing maintenance. Maintenance will largely be maintained by Stephen and then the local Boy Scout troop, although the Town will also keep an eye out as it is on Town property.

The Commission had concerns with the initial location which was too close to the gazebo. They asked the applicant if he was amenable to other locations, and he was. They ultimately recommended a location closer to the bus stop along the Humphrey Street edge of the park, where there is a lot of foot traffic.

Mr. Whipple also presented an image of the library that will be built, which was added to the file.

R. Smith recommended that the structure be painted inside and out in order to prevent moisture degradation.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve 19HDC-96 with the following conditions: 1) the final design is as per photo submitted at the meeting, 2) the Commission retains the discretion to request removal of the structure should it substantially deteriorate, 3) the location shall be within 10 feet of MBTA bus stop/shelter along Humphrey Street, with exact location in consultation with HDC). Seconded by R. Smith; unanimously approved.

6) Other Business

S. Belkin expressed continuing concerns about the status of the Train Depot building. She noted that at a Select Board meeting a couple of months ago it was suggested this situation be resolved by March. Marzie Galazka, Director of Community and Economic Development, has been talking with the MBTA in regards to the proposed lease terms, which are currently not viable.

R. Smith notes that he and the Chair of the Historical Commission will be meeting with Select Board member Hause to talk about the Fish House.

Ms. O'Connell reported on a potential grant opportunity through the MassHumanities Project Grant program which could help fund informational signage for the Olmsted District. She asked for recommendations of Humanities Scholars and will be seeking further input from the Commission.

7) Approval of past minutes

MOTION: J. Jurma moves to approve minutes from October 7, 2019, with spelling corrections as noted; seconded by S. Belkin; approved 3-0-1 (R. Smith abstaining due to absence).

Adjourn: 8:45 pm

Molly O'Connell
Senior Planner