

Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – July 11, 2022

Time: 7:31PM – 8:53PM

Members Present: Ben Franklin, Richard Smith, Jer Jurma, Ingrid Strong, Sylvia Belkin, Andrew Steingiser

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pete Kane (Director of Human Resources)

Location: VIRTUAL via Zoom

Agenda:

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

- a. **22HDC-22 (14 Swampscott Ave)** – by Sarah Dionne c/o Nick Hall. Request to replace all non-original windows on home with new construction windows of similar style and appearance to existing.

Called the application. No one was present at approximately 7:38pm. Will recall the matter.

Recalled the matter.

Pella 250 Series vinyl windows are proposed. Review specifications on website.

Windows are located on first floor on the right. One on the front, two on the side, one on the back.

MOTION: J. Jurma to issue Certificate of Appropriateness for application as submitted.. R. Smith seconds; unanimously approved.

- b. **22HDC-24 (400 Essex St)** – by Doug LaRose. Request to perform repairs to front porch including replacement of rotted treads and risers, replacement of existing metal handrails on stairs, and addition gate to front entry.

Pete Kane was present to represent Town.

Monument is donated to a specific veteran – Jared Raymond (for whom location is already named). Design shown in drawings submitted (approx. 4' x 4' x 4'). No cost to the Town, per Pete Kane.

J. Jurma asked where monument is to be placed → to left of existing flagpole in front of cemetery wall

J. Jurma asked if there is guidance on size of monuments to specific people or soldiers. P. Kane responded in negative, stating that he believes Historical Commission is considering guidelines for monuments on Monument Ave. P. Kane not aware of guidelines for monuments in other locations.

J. Jurma – based on scale of monument, it could start to look like signage for cemetery rather than separate monument. This area was – historically – a main entrance to the cemetery. This is different from typical bronze plaques located in Town.

S. Belkin – asked about bench dedicated to veteran at Town Hall. P. Kane noted that no action was taken by HDC and it is responsibility of Town – not HDC – to explain the move to wife of dedicated person.

I. Strong – question of scale is difficult, but it is possible to consider putting monument in context of landscape. Query if it is possible to nest monument in line of shrubs (removing one to make space)? R. Smith seconds, noting that landscaping helps integrate another memorial in Town (WWII memorial in Howland Park)

J. Jurma – noted that monument has text on multiple sides but working it into plantings would still allow visible access. Want to keep clear line of sight to entrance of cemetery.

J. Jurma also noted that monument was designed and approved by Select Board before application to HDC. Had an application been made prior, Commission would look more at design, materiality, scale, and whether a monument for a person is best use of this historic site. A small scale would be more in line with this site. Current design does not lend itself to a historic district.

B. Franklin – we need to try and make best use of public land and provide guidelines, such as those being crafted by Historical Commission, to provide more guidance. The motivation for monuments comes from a very positive place, but we should provide proactive guidance.

J. Jurma suggested HDC select general location followed by site visit. B. Franklin noted that we would welcome attendance by donating party or others interested.

MOTION: R. Smith to issue Certificate of Appropriateness under following conditions:

- No change to current design, other than scale which be reduced but not enlarged
- Monument location to be left of existing flagpole and further back toward cemetery and embedded in landscape – most likely row of shrubbery that currently exists
- Final location and scale to be confirmed during site visit by members of HDC and other interested parties

S. Belkin seconds; unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

B. Franklin would like to hold second meeting in July to handle application draft and any additional guidelines. Commission selected 7/25/22 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

Commission waiting on Select Board to reappoint 4 members whose terms expired.

B. Franklin asked for summary of events at recent Select Board meeting where Stand-Up Paddleboard camp was discussed, as topic of container had come before HDC at June meeting (but no application was submitted). Andrew Steingiser spoke on behalf of HDC and provided a summary of Select Board meeting.