

Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – August 1, 2022

Time: 7:40PM – 8:48PM

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

Members Absent: Andrew Steingiser

Staff Present: Marissa Meaney (Land Use Coordinator), Pete Kane (Director of Human Resources)

Location: VIRTUAL via Zoom

Agenda:

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- a. **22HDC-26 (22 Monument Ave)** – by Town of Swampscott c/o Pete Kane. Request to install fixed benches on Town Hall lawn.

Pete Kane, representing Town, explained that benches are already located at Senior Center and would like to move one to Town Hall lawn. Part of wider programming initiative.

J. Jurma expressed concerns with addition of another furniture fixture on lawn that would also be another style of bench. To add the bench without planning would not be a good idea; suggested drafting of a landscaping master plan for the lawn. S. Belkin in agreement.

R. Smith has no problem with bench per se but is concerned that it is a new style.

P. Kane indicated that garden furniture does not fall under purview of the Commission. J. Jurma stated, however, that permanent fixtures which are bolted into the and are therefore not easily moveable do fall under purview of HDC.

B. Franklin agrees that landscaping plan for lawn would be beneficial but is in favor of installing bench; acknowledged that there is lack of seating on Town Hall lawn. With further respect to landscaping plan, he does not want to hold Town to different standard than they would of anyone else.

MOTION: J. Jurma to deny Certificate of Appropriateness for application. R. Smith – seconds; S. Belkin – aye; B. Franklin – nay (in favor of issuing COA); I. Strong – abstain. Motion carries with 3-1 vote.

P. Kane stated that Town will proceed with other option which is to place bench on lawn without bolting it to the ground, and is therefore not subject to HDC purview.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Updates to the draft form of the new application to the Historic District Commission – continued to September
2. Approval of past meeting minutes
MOTION: J. Jurma to approve July minutes. S. Belkin seconds; unanimously approved.