

## Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – October 15, 2020

**Time:** 7:30p.m. – 10:01p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Andrew Steingiser

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

The public hearing was video recorded.

### Agenda:

#### CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- a. **20HDC-59 (35 Elmwood Road)** – Request to demolish and rebuild shed at rear of property. (Parcel ID: 1-96). Lewis Whitehead, applicant and homeowner, was present.

Mr. Whitehead presented his application and explained the scope of the proposed work. He did not have complete drawings to present to the Commission, and members indicated that it would be advantageous to have drawings as they would use them as the basis of their decision.

J. Jurma asked if Mr. Whitehead would consider extending the pre-existing roofline of the house and thus making the shed uniform with the house. L. Whitehead inquired whether or not it would be considered a shed at that point as it wouldn't necessarily be a detached structure. J. Jurma stated that as long as there is a division wall, and the structure is only accessible from the exterior, then it could be defended as a shed. B. Franklin clarified, however, that drawings would still be needed.

Abutter Denis Pilotte spoke in support of Mr. Whitehead, his only note of caution being to think about completely tearing down the shed and rebuilding it as it could trigger ZBA issues.

MOTION: J. Jurma to continue the petition to November. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

- b. **20HDC-60 (24 Mountwood Road)** – Request to replace gutters and downspouts on house and garage; gutters will be painted aluminum to match existing gutters. Second request to update remaining nine non-original windows according to 2017 decision. (Parcel ID: 15-12). Peter Brown, applicant and homeowner, was present.

Mr. Brown explained that the existing gutters are coming out and will be replaced by new LeafGuard system, which he showed to the Commission. The Commission determined that this particular product is new, and therefore they would have to deliberate its historic appearance before approving it for the first time.

Member I. Strong inquired whether there was some sort of hybrid model that would allow for there to be a LeafGuard system at the top of the house where it can't be seen, and then keep an open-gutter system on the lower levels of the structure.

P. Brown stated that he invested quite a bit of time and research in choosing the most cost-effective gutter system, and he would appreciate the Commission's understanding.

J. Jurma stated, following a lengthy discussion with Mr. Brown and the Commission, that his petition for the LeafGuard system will be approved based on his specific need, and therefore no precedent is being set forth. This is to be considered a test case of a new product.

Regarding the windows, some of the windows that need updating are replacements, whereas one is original.

B. Franklin asked if there is a point in trying to salvage the one original window if it is the only one which remains. J. Jurma stated that for the sake of historical symmetry, it might be worth it. S. Belkin agreed that saving the window is important, but not necessarily for maintaining historical symmetry. P. Brown requested that he be approved to replace the window, as safety is of high importance for his two small children.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve COA for replacement of gutters with condition that LeafGuard system does not infringe on rafter tails; approve COA for replacement of windows based on 2017 decision. Seconded by I. Strong. J. Jurma votes aye based on maintaining of historical symmetry. R. Smith votes aye but asks to consider making fixed lights to match historic sidelights. MOTION is withdrawn by J. Jurma.

MOTION: R. Smith to approve COA for replacement of gutters with condition that LeafGuard system does not infringe on rafter tails; approve COA for replacement of windows based on 2017 decision with the condition that sidelight windows remain inoperable. Seconded by J. Jurma; unanimously approved.

- c. **20HDC-61 (36 Andrew Road)** – Request to repair front porch by replacing fir decking with same material, and by replacing vertical board below deck with PVC lattice. (Parcell ID: 1-67). Ralph Souppa, applicant and homeowner, was present.

R. Souppa explained the scope of work and presented images of the deck that show existing rotting conditions.

B. Franklin specified only that the lattice be a double-layered sheet.

There was no public comment.

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

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Certificate Extension of 19HDC-24 (87 Banks Road)** – Applicant and homeowner, Marisa Fava, was present.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve extension until October 2021. Seconded by I. Strong; unanimously approved.

- b. **Approval of October 5<sup>th</sup> minutes**

MOTION: S. Belkin to approve minutes. Seconded by J. Jurma; unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm.