

## Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – November 2, 2020

**Time:** 7:33 PM – 9:40 PM

**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-62 (145 Elmwood Road)** – Request to replace fencing at end of driveway and add ceiling lantern on front porch. (Parcel ID: 2-11). Doug LaRose, applicant and homeowner, was present.

Justin Kurtz, the contractor for the fence, spoke to the details regarding the project. The fence is to be four feet tall and made of wood.

The spacing in between the fence is smaller, which J. Kurtz pointed out is to maintain privacy and keep both the dog and kids safe. J. Jurma stated that the design looks sound and based on guidelines.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve the petition as submitted. Seconded by I. Strong; unanimously approved.

D. LaRose indicated that the light fixture still needs to be discussed. The fixture will be black, which is preferable to brass as brass does not age well. J. Jurma stated that a house on Devens Road has the same fixture and it has been quite successful.

B. Franklin had no comment regarding the design itself, just stated that the lighting must be a warm hue.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve design as submitted. Seconded by I. Strong; unanimously approved.

- b. **20HDC-63 (145 Walker Road)** – Request to construct 10'x14' wooden shed in yard, which will be painted to match the house. (Parcel ID: 15-7). Karen Shanahan (applicant and homeowner) and Joseph Shanahan (contractor), were present.

The petition was presented, and the applicants confirmed that they double-checked with the Town regarding dimensions and location. Foundation will be 9 concrete blocks, cedar singles for siding, and asphalt for roofing in order to match home. Slope of the roof duplicates the shed that was built next door.

There was a lengthy discussion about the windows, as those will be new installations and must comply with historic design guidelines. J. Jurma expressed concerns over the single-pane windows, as the aluminum may draft in cold air. K. Shanahan asked if there is a recommended window that could be approved, as they would like to break ground as soon as possible. R. Smith stated that they are looking for windows with strips of wood in between glass that would mimic the original historic style.

J. Jurma stated that even with agreeing to install the appropriate windows, he is hesitant to approve the drawings because they do not represent the aesthetic. R. Smith agrees.

J. Jurma inquired as to whether the petition could be approved in a way that would allow for baseline construction to start, and then reconvene at a separate meeting to discuss approval of the windows. He would also make a site visit later in the week to discuss windows with applicants ahead of time.

MOTION: J. Jurma to approve petition with exception of doors, windows, and finishes, which will be determined, following a drawing, at a special meeting on Tuesday, November 10. Seconded by R. Smith; unanimously approved.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

a. **Continuance of 20HDC-53 (41 Paradise Rd)**

MOTION: J. Jurma to continue to December. Seconded by I. Strong; unanimously approved.

b. **Continuance of 20HDC-59 (35 Elmwood Rd)**

MOTION: R. Smith to continue to December. Seconded by J. Jurma; unanimously approved.

c. **Approval of October 15<sup>th</sup> minutes**

MOTION: I. Strong to approve minutes. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

d. **Discussion of 165 Paradise Road**

Petitioner plans to install mini split AC unit on the side of house and filed for CONA. Claims that unit will be concealed by evergreen bushes. Land Use Coordinator, Marissa Meaney, forwarded the petition to B. Franklin due to uncertainty regarding approval, which then promoted discussion from the Commission. J. Jurma indicated that there is a way to run the wires from the unit into the house without cutting through the wall, and I. Strong questioned why the unit cannot be placed behind the fence. However, given that the house is newer (built in 1965), it was decided that M. Meaney would gather more information from the applicant and determine whether he should be seen before the Commission in December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.