

Belmont Historic District Commission MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 21, 2021

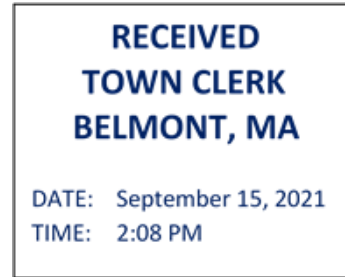
Site Visit at 661 Pleasant Street, Belmont Woman's Club

Staff Present: Christine Zale

Commission Members Present:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Harrington, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Smith |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Chesson | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Solander |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lauren Meier | <input type="checkbox"/> Nushin Yazdi |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Moyles | |

Community Members Present: Steve Pinkerton, Chair, Planning Board; Karl Haglund, Planning Board Member, Wendy Murphy, Belmont Women's Club



1. 12:04 Meeting Called to order by Lauren Meier, Christine Zale Minutes

2. Site Visit at Belmont Woman's Club:

661 Pleasant Street; Belmont Woman's Club (BWC) 12 proposed parking spaces on the left side of the driveway, install a granite retaining wall, pave driveway and install asphalt curbing.

- HDC acknowledges that BWC has limited resources and budget
- M. Smith asked about any changes to the current plans, W. Murphy noted no major changes to the designs previously presented
- L. Meier discussed the option to consider alternatives to what is proposed or focus on proposed design, making note that a vote on the current design at this time may not be favorable. Discussed the potential to file for a hardship
- W. Murphy stated a vote against would end the project completely and the facility is not viable without improved parking
- Commission moved to discuss the current design plan
- C. Moyles reviewed plans in conjunction with Conservation Restriction
- Discussion of handicap access and removing wall near house, the wall transitioning from retaining to free-standing with the free-standing portion being unnecessary
- L. Meier discussed use of recycled granite curbing in connection to the proposed granite wall. General discussion of proposed wall height and making it lower and less visible
- M. Smith brought up concern of perpendicular parking. Discussed abutting residents' concerns of the project
- C. Moyle made note of needing better communication/collaboration moving forward
- S. Pinkerton suggested a working group with Planning Board and HDC
- Discussion of the HDC process with applications and review
- Discussion of parking and idea of parallel parking, Handicap spaces and accessibility
- General discussion of potential future uses for BWC

- Discussion of changes needed to be made to drawings including the 15ft set back from the house and maintaining the slope or landscape.
- Created bulleted list of items for W. Murphy to give to Andy Rojas regarding changes HDC would like to see on the plans
- L. Meier stated need for a holistic approach as the parking was a large intrusion on the town's most historic spot
- S. Pinkerton discussed possible Friends of Mt. Auburn Cemetery and possible support for design and fundraising plans

Meeting adjourned 1:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Zale