

BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Town Hall

December 8, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Co-chairs Richard Cheek and Lydia Ogilby, Paul Bell, Peter Gunness, Richard Pichette, Arlene Levee, Linn Hobbs, Michael Smith

504 Concord Ave.

Steve Knight, owner of 504 Concord Ave. and his architect Tom Huth presented two revised entrance porch/ walkway designs for his home. The entrance porch in question faces Concord Ave. Mr. Knight wanted the BHDC to consider these new ideas in lieu of the previously commission approved design. After their presentation of both schemes, each scheme was unanimously approved, leaving it to the owner to decide which scheme to construct.

Our Lady of Mercy Church

Considerable concern was expressed by commission members over the future development of Our Lady of Mercy Church property at 399 Belmont St. The discussion focused around how to preserve the church and its surrounding open space. The church was designed by Maginnis and Walsh in 1926. The Boston firm of Maginnis and Walsh specialized in Catholic churches, particularly for Irish parishes. It was proposed that BHDC members contact state and municipal preservation organizations with experience in saving churches for advice.

Pleasant St. Reconstruction Project

Several members of the commission have noticed that the newly constructed masonry retaining walls for the Pleasant St. Reconstruction Project do not comply with project specifications. These referenced masonry wall specifications were reviewed and approved by the BHDC prior to the project public bidding process and as a condition for the Town of Belmont receiving project approval from the Commission. Member Linn Hobbs has written a detailed letter dated 26 Nov. 2005 to the Board of Selectmen to express the commissions' concern, especially as it relates to project work scheduled within the historic district. The attached 26 Nov. 05 referenced letter describes in detail the issues of concern.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday January 4th 2006.