

BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

June 6, 2007
Meeting Minutes
Belmont Town Hall

Attending: Co-chair Lydia Ogilby, Paul Bell, Lisa Harrington, Arleyn Levee, Nancy Richards, Michael Smith.

1. UPDATE ON THE PRESERVATION RESTRICTION FOR THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION:

There has been no progress to date on the signing of the Preservation Restriction for the Central Fire Station. BHDC members present were in agreement that Town Counsel should be taking action. Richard Cheek will again consult with Town Counsel.

2. UPDATE ON THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE REVISED DESIGNS FOR THE ARC/BROOKDALE BUILDING IN ZONE 3 OF THE MCLEAN DISTRICT:

Ropes & Gray LLP letter dated June 4 2007 was reviewed, and discussion focused on landscape issues referenced in the letter. Arleyn Levee will be reviewing the landscape plans and documents that were submitted with the letter in the next few weeks and was concerned that no plant list appeared to have been included with the plans.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN PAINT COLOR FOR 710 PLEASANT STREET:

The owner (Anne Elvins) presented a few new colors for her home selected from Historic New England's historic paint color chart, and all agreed on Benjamin Moore "Desert Rose, 2094-50" as a period appropriate color. Ms. Elvins was also encouraged to look into what color the house had originally been painted, perhaps by paint analysis. Should she choose to pursue this course, Ms. Elvins may return to submit another color for approval.

4. 5 SOMERSET STREET

Tom Saltsman (architect/builder) and _____ (owner) were present to discuss a proposal of an additional door on the west side of the original portion of the building (two story portion that fronts Somerset St). This is due to the discovery during interior demolition that there was an original door frame in this location. Dimensions should remain the same of a newly installed door within the framework. BHDC voted and approved the reintroduction of this opening.

The location of a new air handler unit was also discussed, the proposed location being at the juncture of the original building and the larger mass of the later Greek Revival portion of the house. This site is the least visible from Pleasant Street. Discussion centered around the size and efficiency of the unit, its affect on the landscape, and the amount of noise it generates. Further study of these aspects was suggested, and it was agreed that a mock-up of the condenser(s) would be located on site for BHDC review.

Replacement window samples were presented and approved.

A three-part door with a central operable door was presented for review, and although not within the BHDC's purview, it was approved.

Exterior paint colors were discussed, and the owner and architect/builder were referred to the paint color chart published by Historic New England. Colors will be proposed at a later BHDC meeting.

REVIEW MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 2, 2007:

Nancy Richards to submit meeting minutes to Richard Cheek to be reviewed at the July 11, 2007 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Smith brought to our attention that the Design Guidelines are still waiting for an outside editor, and that our last draft was dated 1.6.06. Therefore, we need to get on top of this to finalize and publish. Lisa Harrington thought there were edits made later than this date, and will forward a later draft if it exists.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Harrington