

Belmont Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

May 2018 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 29th, 2018

Time: 7:00-9:20

Location: Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1

Commission members present: Lauren Meier, Co-Chair, Lisa Harrington, Co-Chair, Michael Smith, Elizabeth Pew, Lydia Ogilby, Terry McCarthy, Nushin Yazdi,

Kathleen Fahey

Spencer Gober, Office of Community Development

Not Present: Michael Chesson

Members of the Public: Michael Fallon, Bill Lovallo, Patricia Brusch, Rebecca

Richards, Raleigh Finlayson

7:00 pm Meeting called to order

Discuss plans for Belmont High School:

Bill Lovallo and Patricia Brusch from the BHS Building Committee discussed plans for a new high school. Designs include the removal of the White Field House. They asked the HDC if it will support the removal of the White Field House. L. Meier clarified that a letter needed would address 3 issues: 1) Demolition of the High School 2) Demolition of the White Field House 3) Treatment of Clay Pit Pond. Bill has been talking to the Conservation Commission about the interplay of Clay Pit Pond and the new High School. Discussion of taking a photo of the White Field House before it is demolished. M. Smith moved that the HDC approve the demolition of the White Field House. This motion was passed unanimously.

Public Hearings

Continued Case #18-06 – 486 Concord Ave; replace rotted siding and a single window with a wider 3 panel casement window

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Owner Michael Fallon discussed window choice that will increase the width and height of window and keep the grid pattern similar to front door area with 3 windows. Jeldwen has a stock color similar to the home's trim color.

S. Gober discussed the history of the home. Originally this section of the home was a greenhouse so it is not historically significant.

Committee debated wood with vinyl cladding versus wood windows. M. Smith made a motion to approve the configuration of the windows (3 panel casement as reflected in the new submittal) but in wood. Owner to submit a new data sheet (specifications for a wood window). Motion unanimously approved.

Public Meeting

624 Pleasant Street – Continue discussion of plans to build a rear deck

Owner Raleigh Finlayson presented PVC versus cedar versus Intex Railing system. Scope of project is to repair railing on existing deck and add new deck on back of the house. L.Meier discussed past non- wood material approvals. L. Harrington will talk with Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, about whether Cambridge is allowing substitute products on historic homes. L. Meier asked homeowner for a proportionate drawing of the railing. In order to accommodate a decision before summer the Board will hold a public hearing on June 19th.

Updates of Other HDC Cases:

Rebecca Richards, Director of the Belmont Gallery of Art discussed the need for exterior signage for the Gallery of Art in the Homer building. There currently is nothing official noting where the Gallery is located. Discussed a sign on Concord Ave or Moore Street. Gallery board members would like to use the Gallery logo in reverse color of the sample. M.Smith noted that the location and size of the sign are important. L. Meier suggested a black sign (double sided) matching the existing Town Hall parking lot signs be used. M. Smith will meet Rebecca Richards and walk the parking lot and further discuss sign location and size.

Meeting adjorned at 9:20

Respectfully submitted, Terry McCarthy