

MINUTES for BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

2015 DEC 31 PM 2:49

**Tuesday
January 13, 2015 at 7:00pm**

Town Hall, Conference Room 4

Commission Members Present: Joseph Cornish, Theresa McCarthy, Lauren Meier, Lydia Ogilby, Arleyn Levee and Michael Smith

Demolition Delay Status for 122 Waverley Street: Commission Co-Chair Joseph Cornish reported that the property owner and prospective buyer declined several invitations to meet with the commission to discuss alternatives to demolishing the house and barn and 122 Waverley Street, and they plan to wait out the six-month demolition delay period. Neighborhood resident Judith Ananian was in attendance and expressed concern about structures that will replace these historic buildings and the impact losing these structures will have on the character of the neighborhood. Commission members discussed the effectiveness of the present demolition delay bylaw. Town residents Peg Callanan and Vincent Stanton were in attendance and described their current work for a moratorium on replacing homes with new structures taller than thirty (30) feet in height.

Discussion of Pleasant Street Historic District Boundary Expansion: Commission Co-Chair Joseph Cornish outlined the process for expanding the boundary of the existing Pleasant Street Historic District to include the property at 530 Pleasant Street currently owned by Henry and Sue Bass, which will require a vote by Town Meeting. Joseph Cornish distributed a draft Preliminary Study Report for the commission members to review.

School Street Neighborhood Conservation District Status: Commission Co-Chair Joseph Cornish and Commissions Member Michael Smith reported that they plan to meet with neighborhood residents Anne and Fred Paulsen to discuss interest in their neighborhood to create a Neighborhood Conservation District.

Inventory Status: Commission Co-Chairs Joseph Cornish and Lauren Meier reported on their on-going work with preservation consultant Lisa Mausolf to finalize the list of commercial, religious and residential properties to be surveyed.

Concept Plan Review for Admissions Building at McLean Hospital: Commission members reviewed the concept plan for an addition to the Admissions Building at McLean Hospital submitted by Senior Planner Jeffrey Wheeler on January 7, 2015. Commission members discussed the possible impact the addition might have on the nearby Proctor House and views across the hospital campus. The location of proposed roof-top mechanical systems was also discussed along with additional parking areas and proposed paving materials. Commission members agreed to contact representatives from McLean Hospital to schedule a meeting onsite with their architecture firm to get direct answers to the commission's questions and to discuss the hospital's long-term planning.

New Historic District Signs Status: Commission Co-Chair Joseph Cornish reported that the town received funds from an anonymous donor for replacing the existing signs on Pleasant Street and for a new sign marking the Richardson Farm Local Historic District. Joseph Cornish also reported he is working with the sign maker on final designs and specifications for the signs.