

BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
Meeting Minutes
Belmont Town Hall

Attending: Peter Gunness, Lisa Harrington, Linn Hobbs, Arleyn Levee, Richard Pichette, Nancy Richards, Co-Chair Michael Smith.

Guests: Brian Burke, Jr., Glenn Herosian, Arthur Wolfson

1. UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION BY THE BURKE LAND COMPANY:

Mr. Brian Burke Jr., of the Burke Land Company proposed several exterior elements as part of sidewalk improvement at the Central Fire Station, also to include the adjacent former "pink building". These included using Boston pavers, laid in common bond, with granite curbing; a focal point, which could be represented by a fountain or some other object of interest; two valet parking spaces in front of the fire station and the possibility of a "bump out" to accommodate these spaces as well as to intersect a crosswalk. Mr. Burke was again asked to submit revised plans with additional details and applications for the North, East and South facades. Mr. Burke agreed to do so as he is also submitting these to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Richard Pichette moved that the Belmont Historical Commission ("BHC") state that it initially supports the general concept that Mr. Burke proposes for the sidewalk area immediately in front of the Central Fire Station and the adjacent clapboard, formerly "pink" building, including the idea of a "bump out" and focal point. The motion further proposed that the streetscape, in terms of historically appropriate materials, spatial context, and a respectful pedestrian treatment, should be developed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for sidewalk space adjacent to historic structures. In making this motion, and as part of this motion, Mr. Pichette noted that the BHC was mindful, not only of its own jurisdiction, but also the potential jurisdiction and efforts of the Belmont Center Planning Group in this area.

Accordingly, as part of his motion, Mr. Pichette proposed inviting an appropriate designated representative(s) of the Belmont Center Planning Committee to its the next BHDC meeting for the purpose of obtaining its their views on the space in question, in an attempt to coordinate them with those of the BHC.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. CANDACE JENKINS VOLUNTEERS TO EDIT THE DESIGN GUIDELINES.

Lisa Harrington forwarded the latest version of the Guidelines to Candace in early October.

3. UPDATE ON SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE PLEASANT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT SECTION OF THE PLEASANT STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:

Discussion included what will be planted between the sidewalk and the stone wall along Pleasant Street. Mike Smith will get in touch with Peter Briere from BSC Group as what types of vegetation are noted designated in the plans. Arthur Wolfson suggested that Glenn Clancy be consulted

regarding the plantings as well as the entrance to Olmsted Drive. Organizing a committee of Pleasant Street residents for maintaining this strip was also discussed.

4. DISCUSS LANDSCAPING PLANS FOR 585 PLEASANT STREET, SUBMITTED AS A CONDITION ATTACHED TO A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

Glenn Herosian, owner and resident of 585 Pleasant Street, proposed regrading at the rear of the house to accommodate window wells. The old pergola was removed, and a new flagstone patio will also be installed as a result of the rear addition. A new fieldstone wall is also proposed with the patio after the regrade, making it approximately 14" higher. These proposed changes were unanimously approved.

5. DISCUSS HOW TO INITIATE AND FUND THE ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF 50-YEAR OLD OR OLDER BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN CENTER AS REQUESTED BY THE BELMONT CENTER PLANNING GROUP.

Lisa Harrington had previously mentioned the possibility of the Boston University Preservation Studies Graduate Program undertaking this project, however the current program does not have enough students to meet the needs of this project.

6. THE 40R OVERLAY PROPOSAL FOR THE OUR LADY OF MERCY PROPERTY PASSES UNANIMOUSLY AT TOWN MEETING.

All commissioners are pleased with this outcome.

7. UPDATE ON THE TRAPELO ROAD / BELMONT STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT.

No update.

8. REVIEW MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 2, 2007:

Minutes approved with corrections.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Peter Gunness discussed his attendance to the first meeting held on Tuesday, November 6th, of the Community Preservation Act Study Committee. Discussion included historic preservation, affordable housing, and open space. The committee will be meeting twice a month for the next 6 months. Peter will keep us updated on the progress of this study committee.

Ms. Richards provided all present with a copy of "Open Meeting and Public Record Laws", Town of Belmont, dated May 9, 2007. She highlighted that email is a public record, and that conversation by email by several commissioners may be in violation of this law. Everyone was advised to read the handout and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Submitted by: Lisa Harrington