

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, April 8, 2010
Council Chambers
7:00pm
Adopted on June 10, 2010

Historical Commission Members Present: Russo, Melone, Jones, Steele, Berg, Roach

Staff Present: Magoon, Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00p.m.

1. Public Hearing – Public Hearing – 5 Oakley Road, Request for a Demolition Permit to demolish a 2 family to replace with a 2 family. Fimi Kachadurian, owner; Avo Asdourian, applicant.

Avo Asdourian, architect and owner representative, presented a panoramic view of the street of the proposed project. He noted that the house was not historic. He informed that the building was a Dutch Colonial with a gambrel roof built in 1920. He stated that the building was sided with wood clapboards, with a symmetrical style. Originally built as a single-family with a portico. Over the years the building has had additions and was converted to a 2-family. He stated that the present owner purchased the building in 1980 as a 2-family rental and would maintain it as a rental. Asdourian claimed that he had looked into renovation options but they were too expensive and he could not maintain the gambrel style. He proposed a duplicate style as structures on Stearns Road which would maintain the neighborhood style and scale and result in a green building. He noted that the structure needs renovation and that the present foundation cannot carry a 2-story expansion.

Steele inquired if the massing will be larger. Asdourian responded that it would be larger

Jones did not think that the new proposal was inconsistent with the neighborhood style. Roach concurred that the style fit in with the abutting properties. Melone noted that the neighborhood was zoned two-family and that most properties were originally built as two families. He thought that 5 Oakley, as a single family was less in character. He thought the proposal was more in character with the neighborhood.

Vote: Berg moved to that 5 Oakley Road was not preferably preserved. Jones seconded the motion. **Approved.** 5 Ayes. 1 Opposed (Steele).

Steele commented that though it was not an unusual style it was a typical form and she would prefer that it be preserved and renovated. However, she liked the proposal but preferred that it be found preferably preserved.

Melone pointed out that the Dutch Colonial was a common style in 1920 and that there are many examples in Watertown which have not been altered.

2. 2010 Preservation Awards Ceremony –Award Determination April 8, 2010; Ceremony May 19 2010

The HC reviewed submitted proposals and made the following final determination for the 2010 Preservation Awards:

Nomination Category/Nominee	Comments
Richard Mastrangelo Award/Steve Magoon	His work in supporting the Historic Commission Initiatives- promoting the Plaque Program, championing the Historic Landmarks Ordinance, identifying and receiving historic materials & documents on behalf of the HC – the Hotz 1630-1930 Historical Map of Watertown, stewarding the Commanders Mansion.
Environmental Preservation/Deborah Peterson & Janet Jameson	For their advocacy, restoration and repurpose of the abandoned right-of-way into the Charles River Connector Path.
Richard Mastrangelo Award/Dan Loughlin	In appreciation for the placement of the Historical Plaque Program information in the Tax Newsletter which generated sales and interest .
Historic Resources Award/Roger Hagopian	For the film of “Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood River”
Community Spirit/Watertown TAB	For featuring the “Then and Now” and the “Where are they Now?” series in the Watertown TAB.
Services to Youth	For developing a course and lesson plan on investigating and disseminating Watertown History through technology at the 3 rd grade at Hosmer School.
Citizenship Award/Dorothy Hotz-Colley and Grant Colley	For donating the original Historic Map of Watertown 1630-1930 by Mary B. Hotz.

3. March Minutes - Approved

4. Old Business

a) Watertown Outbuildings/Barn Initiative

No update.

b) 1630-1930 Watertown Historical Map

Russo reported that the map was presented to the Town Council on March 23. Collins noted that the map was in Magoon’s office for safekeeping and that it would be installed in the Council Chambers soon.

c) Shick House Property

Steele reported that more information, photos and plans were gathered to forward to MIT as part of a packet of materials to be included for possible student study projects.

5. New Business

Sawins Pond - Roach reported that a granite stone carved with the word "Hotel" was found along Sawins brook- an artifact from the Glen House Hotel period.

New Meeting Location – Russo requested that a new meeting room be found to hold the HC meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.