

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, June 10, 2010
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted July 8, 2010

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

Staff Present: Hayward, Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

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

1. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit for 541 Pleasant Street – Withdrawn

Russo explained that the property does not meet any of the review standards set under *Procedure for the Demolition of Historically or Architecturally Significance Ordinance Section 2.3*.

2. Review and Update of Preservation, Rehabilitation or Restoration efforts for 185 Summer Street, Joseph Deodato, owner/applicant

Deodato explained that he could not sell the property without a demolition permit.

Russo inquired if he had considered moving the structure to a more advantageous location and do an addition. Russo explained that the preservation of the structure was the HC objective. He added that the property could be obscured. Deodato responded that he had not looked into connecting the existing structure to a new unit.

Deodato noted that there was no elegant way to create a second egress for an additional unit, it would have to come through the first floor.

Melone suggested moving the structure to the front of the property and building behind it. Russo pointed out that other cases existed of additions being built around historic structures. He noted that there was no objection to moving the structure as it was not in its original building site. Russo & Berg queried if Deodato would consider building in front of the structure.

Deodato would speak to Scott about the possibility of building a separate building.

Berg noted that there was nothing wrong with the existing structure.

Loukas inquired if a replica could not be attached to the existing structure. Deodato responded that the structure would need a garage.

Russo wondered if a green space could be created between the existing and new structure.

The item will be continued to the September 9th meeting to determine whether to allow the delay to expire or to extend it based on zoning allowances. Collins will inquire with Magoon if the item can be held as a continuance or whether it needs to be a new Public Hearing.

3. April Minutes - Approved

4. Old Business

a) Watertown Outbuildings/Barn Initiative

Melone noted that he had found construction dates for outbuildings he was researching. Item to be continued to the next meeting.

b) Shick House Property

Steele reported on the ongoing information, photos and plans gathered to forward to MIT Prof. Joe Ferreira for possible student study projects.

c) Hotz Map

Roach reported that the support documentation on the Hotz Map will be kept at the Fowle House.

d) 2010 Awards Ceremony

Members wanted more coverage on the successful event. Collins will post the Power Point presentation of the ceremony on the Town site. Loukas suggested that the Watertown schools be contacted in the Fall about the awards for possible nominees for *Service to Youth* candidates.

5. New Business

Ordinance Update- Hayward informed that the Historic Commission demolition ordinance has no clear limitations. Once a demolition is approved or a demolition delay expires it appears that the demolition approval may be open ended. Hayward suggested that the *Procedure for the Demolition of Historically or Architecturally Significance Ordinance* needs to be updated to provide clarity for when a re-review of a demolition delay is in order – a time element, change in property owner, change in scope of replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

