

**Minutes**  
**Watertown Historical Commission**  
**Thursday, August 12, 2010**  
**Lower Hearing Room**  
**7:00pm**  
*Adopted September 9, 2010*

**Historical Commission Members Present:** Russo, Melone, Jones, Steele, Roach, Loukas

**Staff Present:** Hayward, Collins

**Public Present:** See attached Sign-In Form

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

**1. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit for 100 Robbins Road-Garage not to be replaced. Applicant/owner: Paul Rockin and Bonnie Waltch**

Paul Rockin presented his request to demolish an existing 2-car garage on a slab foundation. He noted that the lot was 5700sq' and the garage was 400 sq' and the house was 1700sq'. He maintained that he needed to remove the garage to make up open space taken by the addition to the residential structure. He mentioned that the garage was built in 1927.

Steele remarked that the structure was not preferably preserved; that it was not unique to Watertown and that there were many more similar structures. She felt it had no historic merit.

Loukas said it had no unique architectural features or quality.

Russo informed that there were no associations to any architects of note.

Melone stated that Osmond & Mill built many of the houses in the area with garages. He indicated that a 2-family garage, however, was unique for the 1920's.

**Vote:** Melone moved that 100 Robbins Road's rear garage was not preferably preserved. Steele seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act Comment– The Arsenal on the Charles Proposed Parking Areas and Associated Drainage, President and Fellows of Harvard College, owner/applicant**

Dennis Swinford, Senior Campus Planner, reported that Harvard wished to increase the parking at the Arsenal on the Charles (AOTC). He informed that since the parking proposed was adjacent to the Olmstead landscape the proposed parking expansion required MHC review. He noted that the parking situation was bad and that this proposal would increase the complex parking by 98 spaces. According to Swinford the 98 spaces would be distributed through three new proposed parking areas. Two would not be

visible to the Olmstead landscape but one would. Presently there are 1110 parking spaces provided by a garage and surface parking.

Loukas inquired if they considered expanding the existing garage and not taking green space. Robert Winkle, AOTC Manager, responded that they had considered adding a deck to the existing parking garage but the structure couldn't support it. In addition, the cost and neighborhood opposition was considered. Loukas countered that the neighborhood already is exposed to an existing parking garage. Winkle replied that it was too expensive.

Loukas asked that if tenancy was low wouldn't the proposal be more appropriate when more parking was needed. Winkle answered that tenant leases are expiring and that tenants have identified parking as an issue. Presently the occupancy is at 90% capacity. It has been up to 98%, according to Winkle.

Winkle described the proposed parking in more detail.

Hayward questioned if any of the areas are capped areas. Winkle assured that they were not and that that capped areas was 65' away.

Russo, Steele and Melone wanted more time to review the proposal and to conduct a site visit.

In response to the allowance of proposed tree removals, Hayward stated that the Town had no jurisdiction on private property and that the proposed take down was 25' or more from the roadway.

A site visit was scheduled for August 26, 2010 at 5pm at 3 Kingsbury Avenue in the Manager's Office.

### **3. July Minutes – Approved.**

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a) Watertown Outbuildings/Barn Initiative**

Ongoing. Melone submitted some completed barn inventories.

##### **b) Shick House Property**

Steele reported Bill Barry is supportive about preserving the building and being used for educational purposes. Steele will provide Danielle Evans the Shick Building Case Study information packet for a possible Tufts Spring 2011 graduate planning class.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a) Mt. Auburn Cemetery/Watertown History Day**

Russo informed that Meg Winslow of the Mt. Auburn Cemetery approached him about a Watertown History Day and a co-sponsorship with the Watertown Historical Commission. Russo thought Father Curran's information on Harriet Hosmer would be a good link. Steele suggested an opportunity to link the Watertown Arlington Cemetery and Ridgelawn Cemetery and their connection to the Civil War.

**b) Faire on the Square**

The HC decided not to participate in the Faire on the Square this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.