

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, January 13, 2011
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted February 10, 2011

Historical Commission Members Present: Thomas P. Melone, J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Donald S. Berg, Susan T. Steele, Elizabeth H. Loukas

Staff Present: Daphne M. Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

J.B. Jones chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00p.m.

1. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit Application for 175 North Beacon Street for existing garage. Applicant/Owner: Perkins School for the Blind.

Brenda Nicolas, Perkins School staff, informed that upon the completion of the new building the facilities garage was in direct site view of the entrance and was an eyesore. With the removal of the facilities garage, it will allow for a reconfigured parking area with landscaping.

Rich Falzone, Perkins School staff, noted that the building was built in 1957 as a six car garage for the now demolished guest house and pre-school. It was a Techbuilt structure.

Donald S. Berg inquired if Perkins had thought of demolishing the structure when they submitted the demolition permits for the guest house and pre-school. Nicolas responded that it was overlooked as they were so preoccupied with the demolition of the residential structures and that the facilities garage was being utilized for storage.

Thomas P. Melone thought it was a satisfactory garage.

Susan T. Steele did not think the garage had historical value.

Jones informed that the garage was a Techbuilt structure and was part of the Techbuilt house system, a style that may be appreciated in the future. Presently, according to Jones, it has no historic merit.

Elizabeth H. Loukas questioned whether a landscape enhancement could be undertaken to screen the garage. Nicolas responded that since the structure was aligned with the entrance it was not a considered alternative.

Note: Melone moved that the existing garage located at 175 North Beacon was not preferably preserved. Berg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Loukas asked what was done with the materials from the demolition. Nicolas responded that Perkins School recycles and reuses as much of the materials as possible and had received an LEED status because of their practices. Loukas wanted more specific information about the reuse of the garage materials and requested that the LEED information be provided.

2. December Minutes – Approved.

3. Old Business

- a) **Boston Post Cane** – Ongoing.
- b) **Watertown Outbuilding/Barn Initiative** – Ongoing.
- c) **Layered Chronologic Maps** – Steele suggested viewing San Francisco’s layered maps for ideas.
- d) **Historic Marker Replacement**- Ongoing. Steele checked with McVey Stone for stone sign replacement options. More homework needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.