

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, April 14, 2011
Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted May 12, 2011

Historical Commission Members Present: J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan T. Steele

Historical Commission Members Absent: David J. Russo, Jr., Thomas P. Melone, Donald S. Berg,

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, 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 – 112 Orchard Street, the demolition of concrete stands and miscellaneous storage building at Victory Field. Town of Watertown, owner.**

Dave Polari, CDM, representative for the applicant, informed that the concrete masonry bleachers & garage and a one-story concrete storage garage are proposed for demolition as part of the field improvements at Victory Field. According to Polari, the existing bleachers cannot be made accessible and that new compliant replacements will.

Roach mentioned that the bleachers were installed when the field was dedicated, after WWI. Hayward informed that there are two historic markers at the site indicating that the field was dedicated in 1922. Polari reported that the plaques will be preserved and relocated more prominently.

Loukas noted that top section of the bleachers is decorated annually as part of the Watertown High School graduating class' tradition. She and Steele inquired if that section would be preserved. Polari responded that it was not.

Roach inquired if the replacement will impact the history of Whitney Hill, the natural open space abutting the site. Loukas inquired about the proposed barrier to the woods. Polari noted that the batting cage, bullpen and a six foot chain link fence with an access gate would separate them. He noted that the woods would be more visible. In addition, he stated that a high net will protect the spectators and woods from balls.

Will Twomley, 75 Marion Road, was embarrassed by the graffiti on the bleachers and supported their demolition.

Peter Centola, Director of Recreation and Phyllis Marshall, Treasurer, informed that a Community Meeting regarding the Victory Field project is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 at 7pm in the Town Council Chambers.

Vote: Steele moved to determine that the concrete stands and storage garage were not preferably preserved. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Ayes - Jones, Loukas, Steele. Abstention - Roach.

2. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit – 76 Robbins Road, the demolition of a one-car garage to accommodate a two-car attached addition. Ruth McKay and Don Campbell, owners.

Steward Parsons, architect for the applicant, reported that the one-car, one-story, concrete block garage was in disrepair. Built in 1920 for a period car, the structure is not functional for today's standard automobile. The owner is proposing demolishing the garage to allow for an attached two-car garage that is part of an addition to the residence.

Members discussed the historic merits of the structure and agreed that it was not functional.

Vote: Steele moved that the garage at 76 Robbins Road was not preferably preserved. Loukas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The applicant agreed to submit photos of the structure for the record.

3. Public Hearing – Demolition Permit – 26 Forest Street, the demolition of a two-family to be replaced by a new two-family. Hye Realty, owner.

Ken Leitner, attorney representing the applicant, informed that the substandard, two-family structure was built in 1949 and that it had a hodge-podge of additions over the years. The structure will be replaced with a new larger two-family structure that will be sited to comply with zoning.

Vote: Loukas moved to determine that 26 Forest Street was not preferably preserved. Steele seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. March Minutes – Approved.

5. 2011 Preservation Awards Ceremony – May 19, 2011, 7pm, Commander's Mansion, 440 Talcott Avenue

The following nominations were reviewed and selected for awards:

Nomination Category	Nominee	Comments
Historical Resources Preservation Award	Judith & Carl Salzman	For their dedication in the protection and preservation of a Town-owned American Elm at 59 Garfield, one of only four elms in Watertown.
Citizenship Award	Ana Torres, Eric Li, Kristin Feierabend, and Jesse Steadman	For their consulting services investigating the preservation,

		and reuse of the Shick property, an 1852 Italianate built in 1852 and its potential economic development implications to the Grove Street corridor.
Architectural Preservation Award	41 Otis Street, Larry and Doris Coe, owners	For the restoration and preservation of 41 Otis Street.
Architectural Preservation Award	Mount Auburn Village, Brian Badrigian, developer	For the restoration, preservation and reuse of the former First Baptist Church into premium residential condominiums.
The Citizenship Award	David Smith and Bob Erickson	For organizing a Civil War Sesquicentennial at Ridgeland Cemetery, honoring Watertown Lieutenant George Eaton Priest, Civil War veteran, organizer of the quartermaster corps, business man and Library Trustee.
Community Service Award	Lauren Higginson, Tiffany Mota, Olivia Kadiff, Pam Pinsky	For mounting an exhibit regarding the development of the Arsenal Mall. An initiative of the Arsenal Mall marketing department, the exhibit included a walking tour and four display cases of artifacts and interpretive materials.
Richard Mastrangelo Award	Kay Westcott, Reference Librarian	For her efforts in protecting historical documents, and providing assistance, information, and retrieval of resource materials regarding the history of Watertown.
Environmental Preservation Award	Tufts Health Plan Employees (Lynn Monahan)	For their volunteer efforts to clean and maintain the Arlington Street Cemetery. The effort included litter pick-up, landscape, and painting the wrought iron fence.
The Historical Resource Preservation Award	Mount Auburn Cemetery	For the conservation/preservation of 2.5 rare decorative cast iron fences surrounding family lots.

Steele requested that an Adaptive-Reuse Category be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

Missing Historic Marker Replacement- a subcommittee met and reported the following:

- that only black granite can be carved for lettering and that it was expensive;
- that bronze replacement plaques were more affordable than granite;
- that Joyce Kelly will work with the bronze manufacturer to develop mock-ups;
- that all missing plaques can be replaced in bronze for an estimated \$8000.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.