

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, February 14, 2013
Watertown Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted March 14, 2013

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

Member(s) Absent: David J. Russo

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 – Public Hearing – Demolition Permit Review –20 Summer Street, a one story masonry building to be replaced by a 90-unit assisted living development. LCB Senior Living, LLC, owner applicant.

William York, representative for the applicant, reported that the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeal approved the proposal to construct 90 units at the site.

He informed that the building was built in 1927 and expanded over the years. Consistently an industrial use, the building has served different businesses over the years, including auto sales, private truck storage, HVAC services, fuel business, and a training school for HVAC. He found no historic merit and he supports a not preferably preserved designation.

Ed Sanclemente, real estate representative of the applicant, noted that LCB owns and manages assisted living properties. They do not construct the facilities. He informed that the proposed property will have a mentally impaired unit but no nursing care.

Jones reported that the first building permit of record for the site was 1925.

York informed that the proposal will be 10 to 24% open space with pedestrian access to the commercial corridor. He indicated that there will be 2 rental/commercial spaces to be leased to businesses that will serve the tenants.

Berg, Melone and Roach did not find any historic issues of merit for the property.

Vote: Berg moved to designate the building as not preferably preserved. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. 9 Fayette Street – Review of the 6-month demolition delay which expires March 13, 2013.

Ken Leitner, representative of the owner, reported that no changes had been made to the plans to demolish.

Jones did not see an economical way that the property could be feasibly restored on such a valuable piece of land.

The demolition delay remains as imposed and is set to expire on March 13, 2013..

3. Informational – Soldier’s Monument & Saltonstall Plaza Restoration Project

John Spector, 16 Whites Ave., presented an initiative by the Historical Society of Watertown to restore the deteriorating Soldier’s Monument and Saltonstall Plaza. Proposed are improvements to the plantings and installation of benches and restoration of the statue which has had its nose missing since 1930.

A three phase approach is planned –1) restoration of the stature, 2) park improvements and 3) rededication. He noted that the Town has agreed to assist in the pruning and grounds keeping.

A cost estimate of \$30,000 has been developed to cover the statue restoration (\$15,000), park improvements (\$8,000), and dedication (\$500).

Note: Melone moved that \$100 of the Historic Commission’s Brigham donation be allocated to the Soldier’s Monument and Saltonstall Plaza project. Berg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. January Minutes – approved.

5. Old Business

Plaques Replacements – Hayward requested assistance in finding original logos used in the stolen plaques. It was suggested that he talk to Kay Wolcott. Vincent Piccirilli suggested that he contact the High School art class for assistance in redesigning the logos.

Old Burial Grounds Sign – Joyce Kelly reported that over 25 people were at the dedication ceremony held January 19, 2013. The event included a walking tour. Tufts representatives were in attendance. The TAB covered the event.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm