

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, February 14, 2013
Watertown Lower Hearing Room
7:00pm
Adopted April 11, 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) 917 Belmont Street Submission of:

a) Agreement between the Walker School and the Historical Commission

Hayward presented a brief historic overview of 917 Belmont Street since 2006 when the Walker School began its process to seek a demolition of the property.

Hayward reported that the Walker School and the Historical Commission, through its representative David Russo, had reached an Agreement which will landmark Section 1 and withdraws the imposed Demolition Delay for Sections 2-6 of the historic structure. The Landmark status will protect the remaining structure in perpetuity through a deed restriction. The Walker School agrees to maintain it for a period of 10 years with the Town and the School working collaboratively in seeking funding and uses for the property.

Steele was concerned that the demolition contractor have expertise in historic preservation. Jones concurred with Steele and urged that the timbers from 1830 be thoughtfully salvaged.

Vinnie Picirilli, Town Councilor, 203 Orchard Street, was pleased with the achieved compromise. He looked forward to working with the Walker School and integrating them more fully into Watertown community. He urged that a creative reuse be found for the property. He felt that the Landmarking demonstrated the school's long term commitment to the community.

Harvey Steiner, Historic District Chair, 18 Marshall Street, commended the Walker School and the HC for their efforts in preserving the building. He wished that more of the building had been preserved.

Roach inquired if the salvaged materials could be reused in shoring up the back wall. Steve Tannenbaum responded that the strong bid that they received from the General and Demolition Contractor was based on the potential value of the demolished materials.

Note: Steele moved that the Demolition Delay period imposed on 917 Belmont Street be lifted for Sections 2-6. Melone seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b) Petition for Historic Landmark Designation**
- c) Scheduling of Public Hearing of Landmark Designation**

The Walker School's Petition for the Historic Landmark Designation was accepted and a public hearing was set for the next HC meeting on April 11, 2013. A Landmark Designation Report and all legal notices and abutters notifications will be prepared in compliance to the Landmark Ordinance.

2) 2013 Preservation Awards

Nominations will be due on April 8, 2013 for review and selection at the April HC meeting. Collins reported that an online application will be launched by March 15. The HC selected May 23rd for the 2013 Preservation Award Ceremony.

3) February Minutes – approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm