

**Minutes**  
**Watertown Historical Commission**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2013**  
**Watertown Lower Hearing Room**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
*Adopted October 10, 2013*

**Historical Commission Members Present:** David J. Russo, J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Thomas Melone, Susan T. Steele, Elisabeth H. Loukas

**Staff Present:** Christopher J. Hayward

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

1. **August 2013 Minutes** – Adopted
2. **Discussion on adding historical information to Town’s GIS database.**

Gideon Schreiber, Senior Planner for the Town of Watertown was requested to be invited to the October 10, 2013 HC meeting to discuss information that S. Steele had found while traveling in San Francisco regarding historical GIS overlays. Hayward will deliver the invite. Also requested was the set-up of a projector and lap top for the October meeting to get a visual idea of what the Town of Watertown currently has on its GIS and what other overlays would be most important to have such as a Form B layer, photos, permit information, etc. Hayward offered to email a link to the current GIS database the Town uses and the San Francisco GIS links discovered by S. Steele for the HC’s use.

S. Steele also noted that she had a link to a student group that offers to help non-profit and municipal agencies. She noted that this group may be very helpful in creating this database.

3. **Discussion on making Zoning Ordinance change recommendations to avoid future demolition requests.**

D. Russo spoke of a map he created that shows single family homes that currently exist with the “T” zone (Two Family Zone). He noted it’s difficult to change zoning but did mention that it has taking place at least twice, once in the Franklin Street Area and once in the Beacon Park area of town, both went from “T” to “SC” (Single family conversion).

Discussion on the history of zoning in Watertown ensued and led to questions as to whether a neighborhood could have its zoning changed. The change would be in order to protect those single family homes that are not protected from demolition due to the fact they are located within “T” zones.

The Hersom Street neighborhood was discussed as a potential for change as many neighbors came out to be heard against the development of a single family home on that street.

#### **4. New Business**

The new plans for the Arsenal Mall and its surroundings were discussed. The HC expressed their excitement for the new owners coming in with ideas of revitalization.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm