

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**Watertown Historical Commission**  
**Thursday, July 10, 2008**  
**Council Chambers**

**Historical Commission Members Present:**

**Russo, Jones, Roach, Berg**

**Staff Present:** Hayward, Collins

**Public Present:** See attached Sign-In Form

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Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:30p.m.

1. **June Minutes** – approved.
  
2. **Cable TV – Information on proposed audio/visual equipment changes located in the Council Chambers**

Cable TV is looking for comments from the HC for the installation of new equipment to be installed in the Council Chamber. The equipment will be similar in size to what is presently there. Jones and Russo suggested that the equipment be dark so as not to be distracting. Berg suggested that the cameras be perched or hung from the crown molding. Russo will work with Cable TV.

### **3. Invitation to Comment by EBI Consulting on Antenna Locations at 65 Main Street and 617 Arsenal Street**

Russo submitted for review a letter he drafted to Amber Courselle, Architectural Historian, EBI Consulting in response to an Invitation to Comment to proposed cellular antennas location at **617 Arsenal Street**. Russo identified possible historic resources that may be impacted – Mount Auburn Cemetery, Charles River Reservation and the Watertown Arsenal. The HC agreed to submit the letter.

The HC received an invitation to comment on proposed antenna location at **65 Main Street**. The HC identified possible sites that may be impacted: Otis Building, Watertown Bank, Town Hall, and the Town Library. Russo will write and submit a Response Comment letter.

### **4. Ordinance Review Discussion – Demolition of Accessory Structures**

In response to last month's Demolition Request for a cinder block garage of little historic value, the HC discussed whether to extend the age for Demolition Permit reviews for accessory buildings. Russo was concerned about accessory buildings such as barns, and carriage houses which should be reviewed. He proposed that the Ordinance might be amended to limit review of accessory structures to garages built after 1930, carriage houses, and barns. Berg concurred that the age of accessory buildings should be extended beyond 50 years. It was noted that the review of these types of properties were infrequent.

Hayward countered that the office was receiving more applications for this type of buildings. Next month the HC will be reviewing another cinder block garage and some radar towers because they were over 50 years.

R. S. Jones, 59 Adams Avenue, was concerned that by extending the age limit for accessory buildings demolition review some carriage houses of note could be missed. She urged the HC to err on being conservative and supported no changes to the Ordinance.

## **5. Plaque Program**

The HC reviewed a letter from Thomas W. Perry requesting that the Historic Plaque for his home at 64 Russell Ave. include his name and the original owner since he has lived in the home since 1964. Berg and Jones were open to the applicant's request.

R. S. Jones opposed any exceptions to the Plaque Program and that information on the plaques is limited to information on the Architect, Original Owner or Builder, date and the HC identifier.

Jones suggested that the plaque information for 64 Russell be limited to Alberto Haynes, the renowned Watertown architect, and date. And that information about the owners not be included.

R. S. Jones suggested that the owner could produce a private plaque with the information he wished. Light concurred.

Russo will talk to Perry regarding this matter and develop a mutually acceptable solution.

The HC agreed to donate a plaque to the Historic Society of Watertown for the Fowle House and that Karl Huntington Neugebauer's application fee be returned to him.

## 6. Historic Photos of Watertown Request by Middlesex Registry of Deeds

The Middlesex South Registry of Deeds requested a Watertown historical photograph for a display installation of historic images from towns and cities throughout the district. It was agreed that an image of the Fowle House be submitted. Joyce Kelly, member of the Historical Society of Watertown, agreed to provide an image for submission.

## 7. New Meeting Time

**Vote:** Berg moved to change the meeting time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.