

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**Watertown Historical Commission**  
**Thursday, August 14, 2008**  
**Council Chambers**  
**7:00pm**

**Historical Commission Members Present:**

**Russo, Jones, Roach, Light**

**Staff Present:** Hayward, Collins

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

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

- 1. Public Hearing Demolition Request –57 Stanley Avenue – three radar towers and one small concrete bunker, Jewish Community Day School, Inc., owner**

Ruth Gass, Head of School, Jewish Community Day School, requested approval to demolish the three radar towers and one small concrete bunker because they were a hazard and inviting to trespassers. Gass noted that Raytheon originally built these structures beginning in 1958. Gass informed that the site will be cleared of asphalt and planted with grass for fields.

Joyce Kelly, 28 Marshall Street-Historical Society of Watertown, reported that she was a former employee of Raytheon. She informed that the corresponding radars were located were present day WOW is. She said that an individual who lived in proximity to the radars would wake up with his hair on end.

Light supported the demolition request.

**Vote:** Jones moved to find the three radar towers and one concrete bunker not preferably preserved. Light seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **2. Public Hearing Demolition Request – 520-522 Mount Auburn Street – one car cinder block garage, Donal Conlon, owner**

Donal Conlon, owner, reported that he wished to demolish the cinder block garage to make a yard.

Based on permit information, Russo informed that the structure was built in 1952.

**Vote:** Light moved to find the one-car cinder block garage located at 520-522 Mount Auburn Street not preferably preserved. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **3. July Minutes – Approved**

## **4. TAB Historic Photos**

Roach reported that the TAB will be printing before and after photos of Watertown. Roach noted that she requested that the HC retain its copyright on photos submitted by the HC.

## **5. Boston Post Cane**

Roach reported that the original Boston Post Cane for Watertown has become available for purchase. According to Roach these ebony canes with gold head were created by the Boston Post newspaper for Massachusetts towns and cities to be given each year to the oldest member of the town. Over the years some of the town's canes got lost to the recipients' heirs. Roach informed that some towns still maintain these ceremonial canes. Roach indicated that the dealer wants \$800 plus shipping for the cane.

Rachel S. Jones, 59 Adams Avenue, suggested countering offer for \$400 and raise the money.

Jones suggested an offer come from the Historical Society of Watertown.

Russo supported the efforts of the Historical Society in pursuing the cane. Roach indicted that the Historical Society was busy raising funds for other HS priorities. Light felt the issue was trivial.

Roach suggested approaching the TAB about this item and issue. Joyce Kelley felt that the cane belonged to the Town.

Russo suggested that the item be placed on the Agenda for next month. Russo will research the legality of ownership.

Russo expressed interest in a possible celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the cane's issuance and providing a certificate to the oldest person in Watertown.

## **6. Alberto Haynes and Brigham design structures in Watertown**

Russo and Berg are researching the building permits issued between 1898 and 1925 to identify Haynes and Brigham designed structures in Watertown. Ultimately, they hope to create a list of Haynes and Brigham buildings.

## **7. 84 Garfield Street**

Staff reported that the office has been approached for information by interested buyers for 84 Garfield Street, both for preservation and take down intentions. Russo noted that this Brigham-built residence has been well documented both for its interior and exterior.

Russo noted that there is a rationale for allowing modification since Brigham frequently made changes and additions to his designs. He indicated that it may be speculation that the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor was lost by a hurricane in the 20<sup>th</sup> C, since the property was owned by a real estate developer at the time and the land was subdivided then.

## **8. Browne School**

Hayward reported that the Browne School is ready for take down and that the property was photographed for the record. He also noted that the trees identified for take down were taken down.

## **9. Faire in the Square**

Faire in the Square is scheduled for September 27. The HC requested that a table to be reserved next to the Historical Society of Watertown and Watertown's Provincial Guard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.