

WHDC Meeting
May 7, 2015

Present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Alice Boelter, Marji Ford, Desmond McAuley, Kathy Steinberg

Others: Michelle Purrington, Steven Kramer

Public Comment: There was none.

Minutes of December 22, 2014 were approved (5-0-0) and minutes of April 16, 2015 were approved as amended (5-0-0).

Public Hearing, 6 Old Sudbury Road - Demolition of rear dormer and new construction of second story. Michelle showed a picture on her phone of the two small dormers that were not structurally supported in the proper way. This led to roof leaks and more. The small dormers will be removed and a new second floor roof will be properly supported. There will be new roof shingles for the entire house, which will be the same color as those originally on the roof. An additional window will be the same as windows previously approved by the HDC in 2008. Desmond suggested Michelle be in touch with her architect for the best type of architectural shingle to suit her house. Marji moved that the HDC accept the application with the request that the homeowner provide the make of the window, and also provide the name of the selected architectural shingle (which will not involve a change of color). This motion was accepted. (6-0-0)

26 Bow Road - Replace roof shingles - change from 3-Tab to Architectural (added 4/23) Currently, it is a black asphalt shingle and it will be replaced with a black architectural asphalt shingle. There was a motion to approve; and the vote was positive and unanimous. (5-0-0)

The HDC voted that the public hearing for 26 Bow Road be waived because the change was inconsequential. (5-0-0) All residents in the Bow Road Historic District will receive a notice of the above HDC decision and HD residents will then have 10 days to challenge the decision to waive the Public Hearing with notification, if they wish to.

Design Review Guidelines - Review of guidelines* - Porches - Decks, Shutters, Stairs & Railings, Trim. There was review, discussion and editing of these items. Good guidelines can lead to authentic restoration, rather than “Disneyfying” (a word coined by Desmond) a home or neighborhood. When trim was being discussed Kathie spoke of its significance. Desmond made the point that trim orders the facade in a classical way. During the general discussion of guidelines Margery asked the HDC to keep in mind the possible challenges to the home owner in the HD (with wood gutters, wood-only shutters, and more). She urged that the language be simple and flexible enough so that future commissions leave room to evaluate each application on an individual basis. Desmond suggested more use of the word “appropriate” rather than “should” or “need to.” This puts the onus on building design, etc. rather than on the commission or applicant.

Next time the HDC will review guidelines for: dormers, doors, gutters and downspouts, painting and fences.

Other business not anticipated prior to the meeting

A resident of the HD has said he will be applying for a post and rail fence with wire mesh for a side yard.

There will be Opening Meeting Law training on Thursday, May 21 at 7 pm at the Town Building.

There will be volunteer brush clearing around the turntable excavation to the west of the Wayland Depot on May 9th, 9 am to 4 pm.

The next HDC meeting will be held on June 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston