

Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

Agenda with Decisions

Tuesday, July 18, 2006
City Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room
6:30 p.m.

6:40 p.m. Meeting Called to order

Members Present: Michael Payne, Cheryl Vanderbilt, DJ Chagnon*, Susan Fontano*, Abby Freedman*, Jeff Meese*, Susan Rabinowitz*, Derick Snare* Brad Stearns*. Derick Snare* arrived at 7:15 pm.

Members Absent: Dick Bauer, John Bunzick, Stephen Glines, Barbara Mangum, David Guss*.

6:40 p.m. Deliberation of HPC Cases

Please be advised that the following cases will be heard in the following order or as soon following as practical.

HPC #06.36 – 93 Highland Avenue – City Hall Bus Shelter - Continued

Applicant: Arn Franzen, Senior Project Manager for City of Somerville, Owner

The Applicant seeks Certificate of Appropriateness for the following:

1. Demolish 10' x 12' brick bus shelter;
2. Enlarge area by cutting approximately 3' of granite wall and earth bank;
3. Reshape detailing to match existing along cut edge;
4. Install new concrete retaining wall; and
5. Install new 5' x 15' Pal-Li style CEMUSA bus shelter.

Michael Payne made a motion, seconded by DJ Chagnon, that a Certificate of Appropriateness be granted for the new bus shelter except that the new retaining wall should be constructed of granite with a finish and style to visually and to physically tie the wall together. Vote was unanimous (6-0).

Demolition Reviews

HPC 06.16 D – 55-61 Clyde Street (MaxPac Site) - re: Update and discussion of possible mitigation measures on proposed demolition of one vacant industrial building: 1928 Agar Manufacturing Company

Applicants: Leslie Donovan, Preservation Consultant; Matt O'Neill, Director of Development, KSS Realty Trust

Received
03/14/06

Determined Significant
03/21/06

Preferably Preserved
04/18/06

Michael Payne made a motion, seconded by Susan Fontano, that the HPC Subcommittee for 55-61 Clyde Street execute an MOA in concert with the City Law Department. Vote was unanimous (7-0).

HPC #06.27 D– 46 Pearl Street – re: Update on proposed demolition of 1871 Ezra Conant House

Applicant: John Mahoney, Developer

Received

04/20/06

Determined Significant

09/16/03

Preferably Preserved

05/16/06

Demolition Reviews by Staff Since Last Meeting

None

Certificates of Non-Applicability Issued by the Staff

HPC 06.39 – 145 Perkins Street

06/29/06

Applicant: Elaine Murphy

1. Repair front porch:
 - a. Replace joists, decking, stairway (risers, stringers and treads) in-kind;
 - b. Replace missing balusters and railing in-kind.

Section 106 and FCC NEPA Reviews by Staff

HPC 06.38 – 94 Beacon Street: Cell Phone Antennae

Received:

06/06/06

Decision

No adverse effect

HPC 06.39 – 119 College Avenue: Cell Phone Antennae

Received:

06/29/06

Decision

No adverse effect

Approval of HPC Minutes: Susan Fontano made a motion, seconded by Brad Stearns to accept the minutes as written. Vote was unanimous (7-0)

Other Business -Project Updates

- **Expansion of Local Historic Districts Grant Project Update – Brandon**
 - Consultants hired for Project: Ed Gordon & Preservation Intern Katherine Montgomery to assist Kristi and Brandon with project execution June through likely early 2007 (estimate)
 - Neighborhood and Overview Meetings scheduled & in progress (see handout)
 - Update on Prospect Hill & Union Square Meeting last night at Abby Freedman’s House
 - Public Info. Materials for property owner distribution in progress; feedback welcome!
 - LHD Subcommittee meeting to be scheduled in early August once several neighborhood meetings completed

- Review Meeting with MHC Grant Coordinator upcoming
- **Historic Plaque Program - Brandon**
 - Plaques for designated properties, past and upcoming, will be offered as one time program following completion of the LHD Expansion Project; newly designated owners will receive plaques free of charge (as further incentive to be designated), and current owners will receive discounted price of \$35 if order as part of this comprehensive round only.
- **Milk Row Cemetery Preservation Grant Project Update – Brandon**
 - MHC grant for cemetery repairs, conservation, and improvements completed by June 30th deadline!
 - MHC Final Project Report due on July 30st in progress
 - Next phase of project is completion of non-grant items, including hiring of archaeologist for flagpole relocation and fence repair work; fence and gate repairs and upgrading along parking lot and Somerville Ave. frontage, in concert with DeMoulas Market Basket & their contractor; and treatment of Heritage Tree in center of cemetery using DCR grant; and Somerville Ave. Improvements MHD Grant Project coordination.
- **Preservation Awards Teeshirt Project Update – Brandon**
 - Only 25 remaining of original 100! Hope to sell off last ones soon & plan to re-order another 100 with slight revisions & due to popular request possible ordering of tank top style and large shoulder length tote bags.
 - Hope to sell at weekly Saturday Farmer’s Market in Union Square & other community events (as did at ArtBeat last Sat.) in order to raise \$5,000 to subsidize Historic Plaques for new property owners.
 - Sponsor(s) being sought for \$850 donation for re-ordering of shirts & tote bags as both fundraising and preservation-awareness tool; ideas welcome, especially of interested realty, architectural, banking and development firms with vested interest in preservation agenda!
- **LHD Repair & Maintenance Loan Program Proposal – Brad**
- **Recently Past & Upcoming Preservation Outreach Events – Brandon, Kristi & Barbara**
 - Historic participation in Memorial Day Parade via Kristi, Barbara & Evelyn
 - Davis Square ArtBeat last Sat. July 15th via table w. Som. Museum & Historic Somerville
 - Historic Somerville meeting, Thurs. August 3rd 7:30pm at Somerville Museum; all welcome!
 - Prospect Hill Walking Tour w. Ed Gordon, Sun. October 15th via ArtsUnion Grant
 - George Dilboy Exhibit at Somerville Museum with Barbara Mangum as key participant beginning in September and continuing through 2007 with many related events planned -
 - Second Annual “Ghosts of Somerville” at Milk Row Cemetery, end of October in concert with Historic Somerville

Schedule of remaining SHPC meetings for 2006: Held on the third Tuesday of every month: August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19.