



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 25, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
58 Bow Street
Somerville, Somerville, MA 02143

Staff Present: Kristi Chase.

Members Present: Alan Bingham*, Ryan Falvey, Eric Parkes, and Brad Stearns*.

Members Absent: Kevin Allen, Dick Bauer, Natasha Burger, DJ Chagnon*, Sarah Degutis*, Tom DeYoung*, Abby Freedman, Derick Snare*, Kelly Speakman and Todd Zinn*.

*Alternates

Others present: Nathan Hogan, Paul McGovern, Brendan Toye, and Sheila Walsh.

DELIBERATION OF HPC CASES

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission will hold public hearings on the following applications, all in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and the City of Somerville Ordinance (Sections 7-16 – 7-28):

HPC 11.31 – 58-68 Bow Street, 365-377 Somerville Avenue, the Drouet Block a.k.a. the Condos at Gerrior Square 4/1/11

Applicants: Noblin Associates, LLC, architects for the Gerrior Square Condominium Trust seek a **Certificate of Appropriateness** to:

1. Add narrow corner boards to outer corners of the building; and
2. Alter spacing of clapboard siding and method of attachment.

Nathan Hogan presented: *Modern wood has a greater variation in moisture absorption than the more dense hardwood of the past resulting in joints that move more than in the past. Narrow corner strips will accommodate and buffer the natural expansion and contraction of*



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the modern clapboard over a long span to minimize movement. These alterations are based on details found elsewhere on the building. While these strips were not used on the outer corners of the building, similar strips are historically used on interior corners of the bays and therefore would not call attention to themselves.

No Public Comment was received.

Discussion: Existing conditions were thoroughly examined followed by a discussion of various approaches to dealing with modern materials from the use of Penetrol® versus using the narrow corner strips and caulking. In reference to the various window casings and their visibility, alterations over time, due to the finances and abilities of various owners, show the history rather than freezing a building in a single point of time. It was decided that the window casings that do not match the historic should match each other, and, at a later date, they will be replaced to match the historic profile. The outer corners of the building will continue to retain their historic smooth appearance where they are not elaborated by pilasters.

Documents: City of Somerville Ordinance sections 7.16 – 7.27, Property Form B, HPC Design Guidelines, Noblin & Associates, LLC contract documents and specifications dated 12/8/2010 for the Building Envelope Repairs of the Gerrior Square Condominium, letter from Noblin Associates, LLC dated, 3/25/11 and photographs of the building.

Decisions: The Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to grant a **Certificate of Appropriateness** to:

1. Add narrow corner strips to the angled corners away from Somerville Avenue and Bow Street along the alley and driveway; and
2. Alter spacing of clapboard siding and method of attachment that will be completed at the doorway of 58 Bow Street.
3. Paint all lead trim; and
4. Replace window casings on driveway side to be consistent until a closer match to the historic can be found,

because the repairs will meet HPC Guidelines and alterations will be minimized on the sections of the building closest to the street.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule for 2011: May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20.

All of the applications summarized above are available for public inspection at the Commission's Office on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on Mon. -Wed. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; Thurs. 9:00 am-7:30 pm; and Fri. 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Since cases may be continued to a later date(s), please check the agenda on the City's website, or call before attending (tel.: (617) 625-6600 x. 2525). Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing, by fax to 617-625-0722, by e-mail to kchase@somervillema.gov, or by mail to the Historic Preservation Commission, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.