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Minutes 03/03/2009

Arlington Historical Commission
 Minutes for the Meeting of
 Tuesday, 3 March 2009
 Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

Call to Order: Richard Duffy, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson. Commissioners Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, and Associate Commissioner, Alex Frisch in attendance.

Review of February 2009 Minutes: Minutes accepted as amended.

Communications Received:

- Call from Zeke Brown regarding 71 Walnut St. (See Hearing at 8:00pm, below)
- Call from Greg Mazmanian, trustee for real estate trust at 323-329 Broadway (see Informal Review at 8:30pm, below)
- Call from contractor doing work at 18 Oakland Ave. Memo sent to Building Department that the proposed work does not require a Commission hearing.
- Call regarding Historical House Marker for 147 Warren Street. Left message for property owner to arrange delivery and payment.
- Received copy of letter from Board of Selectmen, and follow-up telephone call from Armenian Cultural Foundation, regarding working with this Commission on the placement of memorial to Alan Hovahannes. Referred to Commissioner Robinson.

Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:

- Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
- Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – No report.
- Arlington Historical Society (Duffy) – On March 31 at 7:30pm the Society will observe Women's History Month with a program "A Reading by Ann Wyman Blake of West Cambridge," portrayed by costumed interpreter Sharon Wood, speaking about the work of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*.

Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – The Spring Open House will be held from 12 noon to 5:00pm on March 21. Demonstration, refreshments and a final opportunity to view the exhibit "The Dallins of Arlington Heights."

- Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – Mr. Frisch reported on meeting held in February. Project at 187 Lowell St. in continuance.
- 200th Anniversary Committee (Meister) – Ms. Meister reported that the Finance Committee has not yet voted on the warrant proposal and that discussion regarding the proposal will take place at a special town meeting.

Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget – Nothing to report.

Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

- 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – No report.
- 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Nothing to report.
- Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy – Nothing to report.
- 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – No work done.
- 18 Water Street (Callahan) 7/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 40 Lake Street (Burger/Rosenburg) 9/08 Guthrie – Nothing to report.
- 3 Brantwood Road (aka 22 Kensington Park) (Anesse) 9/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 43-45 Massachusetts Ave.(Shapiro) 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.
- 11-13 Peirce Street (AHA) Duffy- Nothing to report.
- 71 Walnut Street (Brown) 3/09 Guthrie-Added tonight.

Continuing Projects

- Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – 1. Display on Old Burying Ground is scheduled for the “Community Table “ at the Robbins Library in May; 2. Mr. Duffy’s February column in the Arlington Advocate on the History of Arlington Street Names featured Short Street, Ramsdell Court, Colonial Village Drive, and Arizona Terrace.
- Historic House Markers: Duffy – No orders outstanding.
- Town Hall: Duffy – Nothing to report. Repair of cast plaster decoration is recommended.
- Web Site: Stange – No report.

Discussion and Hearings:

8:00pm Hearing with Zeke Brown of 71 Walnut Street.

Mr. Brown presented plans to remove vinyl siding and replace with wood beveled siding to match existing dimensions. Monitor in field will determine window changes to south façade of main block. Other plans for improvements include gutter repair.

Following the presentation, Ms. Robinson made a motion that included the following:

- Removal of vinyl siding on the main house and outbuilding(s).
- Replacement with wood clapboards of dimensions and reveal to match the original to the extent known.
- Any patterned shingle-work or similar detailing in the exterior wall fabric beneath the vinyl siding to be replicated. Specifics of this to be agreed in the field with the Project Monitor of this Commission.
- Window configuration on the south elevation (the wall adjacent to the interior stairway) may be modified. Specifics of this are to be approved in the field with the Project Monitor of this Commission.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Guthrie and accepted unanimously.

Commissioner Patrick Guthrie has been appointed to serve as the project monitor.

The hearing closed at 8:24pm.

8:30pm Informal review of 323-329 Broadway (Greg Mazmanian, trustee and Rick Ananian, contractor.)
Plans for 323-329 were presented. Proposal included:

- Repair and restore entire façade exterior. The present stucco façade is deteriorating and has cracks. Strip areas that are loose and go over with polystyrene type stucco and keep same look.
- Look at flashing to check on water damage. Repair leaks along back.
- Awning to be entirely replaced.
- Windows to be reglazed and replaced with same.
- Thinking of adding molding at top to more plain area.

The Commissioners responded with ideas regarding the present egg and dart molding on building and how this could be preserved or replicated. Also wanted more information regarding urns- to see if they have a raised profile or are simply painted details.

The property owners will return on April 7, 2009 at 8pm for a formal hearing.

Old Business: Cooke's Hollow. RFP available to create proposal for Bicentennial Park. Ms. Robinson will do proposal review and then present to the Commissioners.

New Business:

Adjourn at 9:25pm

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be April 7, 2009, at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.