



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Historical Commission Minutes 02-04-2003

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday,
4 February 2003
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order : Robert Botterio presiding, with Commissioners JoAnn Robinson, Eric Stange, Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, and Michael Ruderman present.

Minutes of 7 January 2003: approved.

Communications Received

We take pleasure in noting the arrival of Annika Becker, born to commissioner Jane Becker on 21 January.

Mr. Guthrie wishes to be relieved of his duties while he prepares for the registered architect examination; Mr. Botterio will accommodate his request by taking certain of his projects to oversee.

Mr. Paul Holtz, Historical Architect with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has sent this commission a copy of his correspondence with the trustees of the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust. The MHC has reviewed and approved the trustees' plans for the construction of an interior staircase. Mr. Ruderman will write to the trustees and offer, on behalf of this commission, to assist in the photographic documenting of the impacted areas which the MHC recommends.

The (soon to be defunct?) Metropolitan District Commission advises that the Mystic Valley Parkway is to be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places' "Historic Parkways Initiative."

Belmont Savings Bank has petitioned for a branch at 440 Massachusetts Avenue, the plans for which shall not be detrimental (in the opinion of the MHC) to the historical character of the town center.

Arlington's Planning Department is considering submitting an application to the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund for assistance in the repair of several town-owned properties, including the Whittemore-Robbins House.

Related Activities of other Town Boards: We are still without copies of the current minutes of the Historic Districts Commission. The Preservation Fund committee has not met. Zoning By-Law Review is grateful for our support of the proposed Special Places by-law. The Community Preservation Act Study Committee was well received at last night's Finance Committee meeting.

Projects proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Guthrie (now, Botterio) no change.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington) 11/00: Robinson-*may* be proceeding.

30 Academy Street [f. 20 Pelham Terrace] (McKee) 11/01: Robinson-completed, and off the agenda.

35 Bailey Road (Weil): Guthrie (now, Botterio)-should be completed by now.

3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02: Stange-no progress since last month.

1 Kensington Road (Rowe) 7/02: Guthrie (now, Botterio)-should also be completed by now. Mr. Botterio to check on a skylight that has appeared in the design.

5-11 Water Street (Rowe, tr'ee. of Waterpower Trust) 7/02: Guthrie (now, Botterio)-no activity.

22 Brantwood Road (Blass) 1/03: Stange-not yet started.

Continuing Projects

Whittemore-Robbins House (and outbuildings): according to Mr. Botterio, the carriage house is "just about put back together." He will investigate sources for the reconstruction of the finials removed from the roof balustrade of the Whittemore-Robbins House.

Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-the pre-construction meeting for contractors is set for 5 February.

Inventory Expansion and Review: Mr. Richard Duffy has conveyed the results of his research to the MHC.

Education/Outreach, Website: Mr. Stange requests suggestions for specific content, and thumbnail biographical information from the commissioners.

New Business

8:00: Discussion regarding 30-32 Addison Street with its new owner Mark Lantz of 28 Belknap Street, contractor Ari Miller, and architect Sara Hines. According to the research of the owner and renovation team, this is the former house of Addison Gage, ice merchant, which once stood on Pleasant Street, and was moved after the 1890 death of Gage's widow when his heirs opened Addison Street and began to subdivide the family estate. The commission, having reviewed the plans for the renovations of this Inventoried structure, deems them to constitute more than 25% of the facade. Therefore, a formal hearing will be scheduled at the 4 March meeting at 8:00 PM to consider these changes. Mr. Ruderman will instruct Ms. Carey to send the appropriate notices to the abutters, the Town Clerk, and to the *Arlington Advocate*.

Mr. Botterio reports that this commission's budget has not yet been specifically reduced in planning for the next fiscal year, but that all departments' budgets and reserved funds will be scrutinized for savings. One possible outcome of the present budgetary difficulties could be the imposition of fees upon petitioners for formal hearings to offset the costs of notices and publication.

Next meeting confirmed for March 4, and this meeting closed at 9:45 PM.

For the Arlington Historical Commission,
A. Michael Ruderman, Commissioner