



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Historical Commission Minutes 02-06-2001

Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order: chair Robert Botterio presiding, with commissioners Patrick Guthrie, JoAnn Robinson, and Michael Ruderman. Also, associate Eric Stange, secretary Lyz Carey, and to begin the meeting Town Manager Philip Farrington.

Minutes of 2 January 2001-approved.

Communications-first, from Mr. Botterio:

Requests for demolition of non-listed garages or for renovations to listed structures which will not comprise 25% or more of the public facade involving 61 Forest Street, 9 Willow Court, and 14 Brentwood Street. Also, a second request for the commission's contribution to the town's annual report.

Letter received from the Director of the Robbins Library, Maryellen Remmert-Loud, indicating the Nixalite avian barrier system they had installed has failed in deterring pigeons from the library cornices. They will now try a netting, marketed under the tradename Birdmaster, in selected areas, so that we may judge both its appearance and effectiveness.

Massachusetts Historical Commission reports the bridge which carries Alewife Brook Parkway over its eponymous watercourse is on the Secretary of State's schedule of historic bridges to be repaired.

Mr. Stange is requesting the use of the Whittemore-Robbins House for a weekend of filming in late March for his production of "The Murder of Doctor Parkman." The documentary will tell two tales: the 1849 murder at the Harvard Medical School, and the ways in which a notorious event is reshaped into "history." The production foresees an air date on PBS's "The American Experience" in the fall of 2002.

Review of Projects

125 Brattle Lane/Farmer's Lane (Colonial Ridge LLC) 11/99: Robinson-no changes.

143 Woodside (Bouvier)7/00: Guthrie-almost completed.

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Guthrie-still awaiting Land Court ruling.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington)11/00: Robinson, Guthrie-Court Street Architects finally chosen in the competition for renovation proposals.

45 Fairview Avenue (Trvalik) 12/00: Botterio-no start yet.

4 Mystic Bank (Keane) 12/00: Ruderman-no changes from last month; will inquire to learn if finished in the present form.

Demolitions Pending

Brattle Court (David and Danny Veo, owners): August 1, 2001

Massachusetts Avenue (Rita Yegian, owner): November 8, 2001

Brattle Court (Mike Daniel, owner): November 8, 2001

No communication or activity regarding these properties.

Reports

Whittemore-Robbins House: Carey-floor refinishing coming.

Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-awaiting requests for bids on walls, fountains.

Updates and Expansion to Inventory: Cohen, Meister, Guthrie, Stange-no activity.

Inventory of public buildings: Stange and Robinson-no activity.

Inventory of significant lots: Botterio-Mr. Ruderman still working on analysis of maps of lots.

Education/Outreach: Stange, Botterio-awaiting *Advocate* article. Discussion of ways of acknowledging National Preservation Week, the first week of May. Suggestions-awards for projects, or public presentation from project insiders on how their particular success happened. Possible case in point: First Parish Church (Congregational), Pleasant Street.

Massachusetts Avenue (Osco): Robinson-no news.

Affordable Housing Task Force: Mr. Stange will soon distribute to all commissioners a draft warrant article for submission to the town meeting, and requests comments.

Zoning By-Law Review Committee: Meister-absent.

Historic Districts Commission: Cohen-absent.

Old Burying Ground survey and assessment: Robinson-no activity.

Preservation Fund-Guthrie-no meetings.

Hearing on changes to 19 Winter Street, presented by builder Curtis Morgan of Morgan Construction; Martin Conneely, for Conneely Contracting; and the owners represented by Angela McGlashing and Officer Dennis M. Corbett.

This house was built in 1847 by John P. Squire, for over fifty years (from 1842 until his death in 1893) a "marketman" selling pork at Faneuil Hall in Boston. All the house lots on the east side of Winter (then know as Union) Street were auctioned at the same time, with 19 and 13 Winter remaining as originally constructed at that time. The property is fine example of the Greek Revival style, as commissioned by an owner with the taste and resources to execute it fully.

The petitioners seek to expand the second and third sections of the house, raising the ridge height of the third to the level of the second, and adding an ell to the third section for additional living space.

The Arlington Historical Commission voted 4-0 to accept the plans for renovations to 19 Winter Street as presented, with the following changes:

reducing the ridge height of the "third" section of the building (counting the main house as the first, its rearward extension the second, and the final extension as the third) by one foot, adding corner boards on both sides of the third section at its juncture with the second section, thus preserving a visual distinction between it and the second section of the building,

revising the window scheme by adding one window to the front quadrant on the second floor aligned with the window below it on the first floor, and substituting a single window for the double window on the first floor, similarly aligned with the second story window above it,

adding 8-inch cornerboards to the ends of the third-section ell, and moving those windows closest to these cornerboards away from them in order to expose siding between the windows and the cornerboards,

increasing the size of the lights of the smaller windows to match the size of those of the front windows of the main house, in a suggested two-over-two arrangement, and

maintaining a brick foundation, from grade, around the entire second and third sections to match the foundation of the first section.

The Commission endorses the builder's choice of fiber-cement siding, and directs the clapboards used to have the same reveal as the existing wooden clapboards beneath the aluminum siding upon the main house. If frieze boards are found to have been used on the second and third sections of the building, as the aluminum siding on these sections is removed, the Commission directs that these frieze boards be replicated on the rebuilt second and third sections.

Finally, the Commission requires a revised construction plan incorporating these changes to be delivered to it in two weeks' time. Mr. Ruderman will monitor the work.

Schedule of coming meetings, all on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Whittemore-Robbins House: March 6, April 3, May 1 (the beginning of National Preservation Week), June 5, July 3, and August 7, 2001. This meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

For the Arlington Historical Commission,
Michael Ruderman, Commissioner

