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Historical Commission Minutes 06-05-2001

Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order: Robert Botterio, presiding, with commissioners Patrick Guthrie, JoAnn Robinson, Michael Ruderman, Jane Becker, and Pam Meister; also, associate Eric Stange, and Richard A. Duffy.

Minutes of 1 May 2001: approved.

Communications-first, from Mr. Botterio:

Scott Chasteen of 32 Academy Street requested, and received, Mr. Botterio's determination that the work he proposes to his home is less than 25% of the facade; Ms. Becker said evidence of the work on site suggested otherwise.

The Board of Selectmen advise all town bodies that Town Day will be celebrated September 14, and we will add this as an agenda item.

The owner of 17 Oak Knoll Road has requested a demolition permit for the garage at the side of his building. Commissioners are asked to visit the address and return with thoughts on whether the request requires a hearing.

In response to a number of phone calls from property owners requesting the status of their requests for historic markers, Mr. Botterio is asking Mr. Ruderman for a list of all outstanding research requests so that we can eliminate the backlog.

Minor repairs- "a few clapboards" and the like-have revealed serious underlying rot and structural damage to the Whittemore-Robbins carriage house; serious enough to cause the building inspector's office to condemn the entire structure. We will add this situation as an agenda item, along with the possibilities of funding the critical repairs through a combined request to restore three deserving town properties: the central fire station, and the Jarvis House at 50 Pleasant Street, being the other two.

Review of Projects

125 Brattle Lane/Farmer's Lane (Colonial Ridge LLC) 11/99: Robinson-has left messages for the builders regarding the original exterior condition of this building, and the need to have the structure returned to the appearance in her photographs and documentation.

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Guthrie-no changes from last time.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington) 11/00: Robinson, Guthrie-no contract issued yet.

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

19 Winter Street (McGlashing) 2/01: Ruderman-completed, except for cornerboards.

9 Brantwood Road (Stainton) 5/01: Botterio-no work as yet.

Demolitions Pending

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

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

Redevelopment Board hearing for 5 and 7 Brattle Court on the evening of June 11 at 8:00.

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

Mr. Ruderman is seeking the name of the purported purchaser of this property.

Reports

Whittemore-Robbins House: Carey-see communication on carriage house above.

Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-no bid papers yet.

Updates and Expansion to Inventory: see presentation by Mr. Duffy (New Business)

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

Education/Outreach: Stange, Botterio-no activity.

Massachusetts Avenue (Osco): Mr. Ruderman has examined the docket for the Land Court case: the judge has had the case for his consideration since January.

Affordable Housing Task Force: Stange-no news.

Zoning By-Law Review Committee: Meister-no meetings during Town Meeting, but activities resuming tonight.

Historic Districts Commission: no report.

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

Preservation Fund-Guthrie: no report.

Grants (Surveys and Planning): Guthrie, Stange: awaiting application information.

February 2002 Event: "Murder of Dr. Parkman" broadcast: to come.

New Business

Mr. Melvin Fraimen was unable to appear at this evening's meeting to discuss the renovations to his property, the Massachusetts Avenue block which includes the Capitol Theater. Mr. Botterio will pass along the observations of several of the commissioners regarding the style of Mr. Fraimen's window replacements on one of his other properties, the Somerville Theater, as they would apply to the Capitol.

MHC Historic Preservation Economic Impact Study-Mr. Ruderman will respond for the commission with the names of several projects' developers who may be of interest to this study.

Mr. Richard Duffy, a former member of this commission and presently an officer of the Arlington Historical Society, and a trustee of the Old Schwamb Mill, presented a brief slide lecture. His subject was various houses and neighborhoods under consideration for expansions of the inventory of historic structures, including the history of the Teel-Henderson workers' housing. Mr. Duffy will forward a list of the property addresses included in his photographic tour, and his recommendations for the priority of inclusion in the inventory.

Confirm meeting for July 3 , 2001 and adjourn.