

**Meeting of the
Wellesley Historical Commission
14 January 2019 19:00
Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall | Wellesley, Massachusetts**

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order 19:03.

Members Present: Shepsle, Lilley, McNally, Brown, Shauffler, Gleysteen and Racette (sitting for Goins by designation of the Chair); **Alternate Members Present:** Loccisano, Carley

2a. DR-2018-55: 490 Worcester Street:

Owner appeared and spoke of desire to demolish for decades and a recent sewer problem in the house that had rendered it uneconomical to fix.

Schauffler moved that the building NOT be preferably preserved, McNally seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

2b. DR-2018-56: 38 Windsor Road

[Loccisano sitting for Gleysteen (who recused himself) by designation of the Chair.]

Atty Himmelberger appeared on behalf of the Owner. Structure is in considerable disrepair. Took issue with the planning staff report's finding concerning the historical significance of the persons in the report and the attenuated relationship between those persons and the building.

Neighbor (from 33 Windsor) appeared and spoke. Indicated that the applicants have approached neighbors, but that there is still questions as to what will follow demolition. She indicated that the neighborhood has many historic homes in it.

Dorin provided significant additional information concerning the persons associated with the building.

McNally moved that the building be preferably preserved; Racette seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

2c. DR2018-58: 5 Mayo Road

[Alternate Member Carley recused himself from this hearing and left the room – minutes recorded by Loccisano]

Owner, Philip Brown appeared to present a brief history of the property and a discussion of their proposed project scope in view of prior contemplated renovations.

Claudia Zarazua-Urquidi of the Planning Department presented the Planning Department report noting the significance of the home relative to the neighborhood and the original Mayo farm area, as well as the architectural merits and siting of the existing home. The Planning department further noted their determination that the subject property should not be preferably preserved.

Chairman Brown opened the floor to any neighbors seeking to present additional info, of which there were none.

Mr. Dorin provided a brief commentary on the neighborhood, the prior owners of the home and the original architect of the property.

Mr. Racette commented on the context of the home and the abutting properties relative to the present subject.

Chairman Brown commented on the architectural merits of the home relative to the neighborhood.

Ms. Shepsle commented on the status of the neighborhood, the state of development on Mayo Road and provided encouragement to integrate any proposed new development into the abutting homes.

Mr. Gleysteen provided architectural comments on the present home in view of the Porter architects prior construction methods.

Shepsle moved that the building not be preferably preserved; Schaffler seconded. Vote 6-1 building not be preferably preserved. McNally opposed.

2d. DR-2018-59: 18 Jefferson Road

Executor of the estate of Mary Clasby, Robert Clasby Jr., appeared before the Board to present a brief history of the property, a discussion of the status of the home and noted the proposed pending sale of the property by the estate of the owner of record.

Claudia Zarazua-Urquidi of the Planning Department presented the Planning Department report noting the architectural significance of the home relative to the neighborhood and context to the neighborhood.

Chairman Brown opened the floor to any neighbors seeking to present additional info, of which there were none.

Mr. Dorin provided a brief commentary on the neighborhood, the developer of the neighborhood and the original nature of the present property.

Mr. Racette sought commentary from those architects in attendance. Mr. Lilley provided a brief commentary on the scale of the home relative to the neighborhood as well as the presence of applicable architectural value of the present structure. Mr. Gleysteen provided commentary on the neighborhood context and preservation relative to the present home.

Mr. Racette provided commentary on the neighborhood context as applied to the present home.

Gleysteen moved that that the building be preferably preserved; seconded Racette. Shepsle, Lilley, McNally, Brown, Gleysteen and Racette voted yes. Schaffler voted no.

2e. DR-2018-60: 84 Whittier Road

Atty Himmelberger appeared on behalf of the estate of the late owner.

Dorin gave a history of the neighborhood, now known as the "Poets" neighborhood. Noted that this is the first application to come before the Commission in the Poets' neighborhood, and that neighborhood has been relatively undisturbed by recent development.

Brown remarked that the home fits in well with the neighborhood.

Gleysteen commented on the architectural features of the home.

Neighbors Alan and Denise Lauer (86 Whittier) appeared. Alan Lauer indicated that he supported preservation of the home.

McNally moved that the building be preferably preserved; Racette seconded. Unanimous in favor.

2f. DR-2018-61: 22 Colburn Road

Attorney Himmelberger appeared on behalf of the Owner, and Mr. Kraus, Architect, also joined.

A discussion of the proposal was had, with several commission members voicing favorable reactions to the presented plans. Some non-binding recommendations were made by Commission architects.

McNally moved that the building NOT be preferably preserved; seconded Racette. Unanimous in favor.

3. Waiver Hearings

3a. DR-2018-23: 121 Lowell Road

Atty Himmelberger appeared with the Owner. Members Lilley and Gleysteen discussed the features of the roof, and requested changes to the center gable (the gable will slide down the roof). Dorin requested windows on the 1st and 2nd floors on the right elevation to match those on the left elevation. Applicant agreed to these revisions.

McNally moved to grant the waiver conditional on the submitted plans as revised and subject to the other articulated conditions; Schaffler seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the waiver.

3b. DR-2018-46; 8 Riverdale Road

Atty Himmelberger and Architect Michael Collins appeared on behalf of the owner. Neighbors Alex and Jane Gavis (20 Riverdale) also appeared. Ms. Gavis spoke on the matter of neighborhood cohesiveness. The asked to Commission to act reasonably in this neighborhood in view of a recent demolition and rebuild on the street. They spoke favorably of the architect and his prior work.

Several Commission members spoke favorably of the proposed design and how it fits into the neighborhood and pays homage to the existing structure.

McNally moved to grant the waiver subject to the condition in the planning staff report and that the hearing be held open pending resolution of other public reviews; seconded Schaffler. Unanimous in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes of 10 December 2018

McNally requested two edits.

McNally moved to approve as edited; Schauffler seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. House Plaque Approvals/House Plaque Research Contract

- a. 8 Belair Road
- b. 15 Squirrel Road
- c. 21 Squirrel Road
- d. 29 Arlington Road
- e. 30 Garden Road
- f. 32 Dover Road
- g. 52 Cottage Street
- h. 175 Weston Road
- i. 389 Worcester Street
- j. 633-635 Washington Street

Motion to approve issuance and production of plaques for the buildings at the above addresses made by Lilley; seconded Racette. Unanimous in favor.

Motion by McNally to continue the stopgap contract to research and issue plaques which have already been requested for up to six (6) months; seconded Gleysteen. Unanimous in favor.

6. Project Updates

- a. Fells Library Roof Article
- b. HHU Update – Dorin discussed the four options presented at the 10 January 2019 meeting. Gleysteen spoke about some of the architectural constraints of the site.
- c. Beebe Plaque – McNally said there would be an update next month.
- d. Historical Articles and/or Awards (e.g., Historic Renovation, Historically Accurate New Construction). 2017 awards were all distributed. Seeking ideas for the 2018 awards.

7. New Business

Discussion of WHC participation in Wellesley Wonderful Weekend Parade in May 2019

8. Chair adjourned the meeting at 22:07