

**Meeting of the  
Wellesley Historical Commission  
11 May 2020 19:00**

**Meeting Convened via Zoom Video Conference in Accordance with the  
Emergency Orders of the Governor of the Commonwealth in Response to  
The COVID-19 Pandemic**

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 19:04.

**Members Present:** Brown, Lilley, McNally, Shepsle, Greco, Shlala and Charney (sitting for Schauffler by designation of the Chair).

**Alternate Members Present:** Carley, Racette

**2. Citizen Speak**

No speakers called into the conference line for the purpose of Citizen Speak.

**3. Public Hearings on Applications for Demolition**

**3a. DR-2020-12 – 97 Russell Road**

Michelle Jacobs, Owner, appeared.

Ms. Dana Marks, Planner, Wellesley Planning Department, explained the procedural posture of the case. The house was deemed not preferably preserved by the Commission in early 2018. As the owners did not pull a demolition permit within 2 years of that determination, the home is back before the Commission for another preservation determination.

Ms. Marks proceeded to review the Planning Department's substantive report on the property. She indicated that little has changed since the last preservation determination by the Commission.

Mr. Dorin did not have any additional information to add.

Mr. Racette indicated that he did not believe that the building should be preferably preserved and also commented on the attractiveness of the neighborhood.

Ms. Jacobs indicated that they plan to demolish and reconstruct the dwelling for their own use.

Ms. Shepsle commented on the beauty of the neighborhood and suggested that be taken into consideration when they construct a new home on the property.

Mr. Brown echoed the other Members' comments

**McNally moved that the building NOT be preferably preserved. Shepsle Seconded. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala:**

Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor). NO Delay was imposed.

#### 4. Waiver Hearings

##### 4a. DR-2019-68 – 9 Wilson Street

Attorney Himmelberger, on behalf of the owners of the property, introduced the new design and requested that the Commission grant the waiver.

Ms. Carter and Mr. Jamison also joined the call as representatives of owner.

Mr. Michael Collins, the project architect, also appeared on behalf of the owner and presented the new design.

Ms. Marks screen shared the drawings of the proposed design.

Mr. Brown commented on the proposed design, indicating that he thought that the proposed design really harkens to the structure that is there today and is an impressive achievement of modernization while respecting the homes around it.

Mr. Charney indicated that he thought it was a very good design that made very good use of a difficult elongated lot.

Atty. Himmelberger commented on the Zoning Board of Appeals process to come.

Mr. Lilley provided an overview of the architectural features and applauded the effort to modernize the home while paying homage to the existing structure.

Mr. McNally asked about the portion of the original building that was being demolished.

There was a discussion of the procedural situation with respect to the ZBA proceeding still to come.

Mr. Racette volunteered to monitor the project as it goes forward.

**McNally moved to grant the waiver with the conditions enumerated in staff report. Seconded Shlala. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor). The waiver was GRANTED. The hearing was left open pending the results of the ZBA proceeding to come.**

##### 4b. DR-2020-02 – 9 Durant Road (continued from earlier date)

Attorney Himmelberger appeared on behalf of the Petitioner. Ms. Anita Spigulis-DeSnyder, Trustee of the Trust that owns the property, also appeared.

Atty. Himmelberger reviewed the procedural posture of the case and presented the revised drawings.

Mr. Dorin asked about height of the structure and from where it was being measured.

Ms. Shepsle asked a question about dimensions.

Chairman Brown commented on the design and contrasted it with the prior hearing (9 Wilson).

Mr. Charney and Mr. McNally also commented on the dimensions of the proposed design.

Mr. Lilley then commented on the architectural features of the proposed design. He expressed continuing concern about the massing among other aspects.

Dr. Shlala commented on how the proposed design would not fit into the context of the rest of the neighborhood.

Chairman Brown discussed the potential path forward including a vote tonight or keeping the hearing open and continuing it until the Commission's next meeting on June 8, 2020.

**McNally moved to continue the hearing until June 8, 2020. Seconded Greco. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor).**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

March and April minutes were considered. Several edits were requested, which Chairman Brown made.

**McNally moved to approve minute of the March and April, 2020 meetings of the Commission, subject to the edits that were discussed being made. Seconded Greco. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor)**

## **6. Discussion of a Potential New Member of the Commission**

Discussion by Chairman Brown, et al. of Mr. Thomas Paine's credentials and whether he should be recommended to the Board of Selectmen as a highly qualified individual to join the Commission.

**Greco moved to recommend the appointment of Mr. Thomas Paine to the Commission as an Alternate Member to the Board of Selectmen. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor)**

## **7. Discuss Renovation and New Construction Award Candidates**

Properties Considered:

30 Old Farm Road  
15 Ordway Road  
65 Prospect Street  
49 Woodlawn Avenue  
68 Crest Road

**Shlala moved to recommend that awards be given to the homes at 30 Old Farm Road, 15 Ordway Road, 65 Prospect Street, 49 Woodlawn Avenue, 68 Crest Road for historically-sensitive renovations. Seconded: McNally. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor).**

## **8. Project Updates**

### Plaques:

14 Elm Street  
12 Curve Street

**McNally moved to issue Historical Commission Plaques for 14 Elm Street and 12 Curve Street. Seconded: Lilley. Roll-call vote because of remote participation under applicable law and the emergency orders: McNally: Yes; Shlala: Yes; Shepsle: Yes; Greco: Yes; Lilley: Yes; Charney: Yes; Brown: yes (Unanimous in favor).**

Issued Plaques: Distribution of issued plaques was discussed.

31 Elm Street: Charney to go photograph that home this week (per earlier resolution of the Commission). Discussion about retention of the photographs and getting them into the historical record of the Town.

### Articles:

Wellesley Wonderful Weekend Parade not happening on scheduled date because of COVID-19 Pandemic – will wait for update from Celebrations Committee.

## **9. New Business**

None.

## **10. Adjournment**

**Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 21:28.**