

Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – October 7, 2019

Time: 7:31 p.m. – 9:11 p.m.

Members Present: Ben Franklin, Chair; Jer Jurma; Sylvia Belkin; Andrew Steingiser (late)

Members Absent: Richard Smith

Location: Swampscott Police Station, 535 Humphrey Street

The public hearing of the Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:31 p.m.
The public hearing was video recorded.

1. **19HDC-70 (60 Andrew Road)** – COA for removal and replacement of an existing exterior door located at the rear of the house. The new door is similar in design with obscured glass. Storm door will be re-installed.

George Ditzel, applicant and homeowner, was present to represent the application.

A. Steingiser will abstain from voting as he was late to the meeting.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to issue the COA “as submitted”. Seconded by S. Belkin. Approved (3-0-1).

2. **19HDC-80 (33 Outlook Road)** – COA for replacement of existing fence in the same style cedar board with a new slat topper (Yorktown Topper) from Walpole Woodworkers. Height and color to remain to the same.

Pam Lawrence, applicant and homeowner, was present to represent the application. The fence was replaced in 2004, but not done well which is why it needs replacing again. The new gate in will become compliant with pool regulations, and the rear fence will be moved slightly inwards and off the property line.

Patricia Jones, abutter at 25 Farragut Road, stated that the rear of the fence is currently held up by big iron posts and it is an eye sore. She provided pictures to the Commission.

Ms. Lawrence said that the plan is for Walpole to put the new fence slightly inwards and with new posts, so they can remove the iron ones if Ms. Jones would allow them to come through the property to take them down.

B. Franklin noted that the new fence and plan from Walpole will thus eliminate the unsightly views from Farragut.

MOTION: J. Jurma to issue COA “as submitted”. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

3. **19HDC-81 (94 Elmwood Road)** – COA for replacement of five (5) existing concrete/bluestone steps with five granite block / granite slab steps. Stairs are located on the Monument ave side of the property.

Catherine Wilson, applicant and homeowner, was present to represent the application. She described two options for the stair replacement, one which would be almost the same design as the existing stairs, and another which would be two smaller staircases with larger landings (although the same number of steps). She is also considering removing the railings, as long as the steps would still comply with the building code. After discussion, the commission decided to craft the decision to allow both options and were in favor of removing the railings, if possible.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: J. Jurma to issue COA with the following conditions – 1) step layout may be altered to allow paired steps with landings and 2) hand rail may be removed. Seconded by A. Steingiser; unanimously approved.

4. **19HDC-82 (106 Elmwood Road)** – COA for replacement of existing fence on side of home. The replacement will be a cedar fence with lattice top. The applicant also wants to move the fence forward nine feet to align with the side entrance door and extend the existing blockade fence on left side of the porch by three panels for privacy coverage.

John Senko, applicant and homeowner, was present to represent the application. The Commission noted that the type of fencing was similar to 33 Outlook Road and is ubiquitous around Town. The proposed gate has a horseshoe cutout and arch on top. The proposed moving of the fence is functional to allow direct fenced access to the backyard.

There were no public comments.

MOTION: J. Jerma to issue COA with the following conditions: 1) Gate lattice to match proposed fencing panels, with small horseshoe removed as pictured, and 2) gate arch not to exceed 3 feet in height. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

5. **19HDC-84 (44 Walker Road)** – COA for removal of vinyl siding and replacement with Hardiplank siding. Josyanne Dumser, owner, was present along with John Chew, applicant and contractor. The house is in need of multiple renovations, and the siding is the first step. It was not taken care of over the years, and currently has old vinyl siding with various remnants underneath. It appears that the original siding was likely 8 inch clapboard. Plan is to replace with Hardiplank. The applicant will also need to replace window trim, corner boards, and window sills. Much of the fenestration has been ruined as a result of the improperly installed vinyl.

The Commission members discussed future renovations with Mr. Chew. J. Jurma and Mr. Chew made an appointment to meet on site to discuss other elements of the house that will come before the Commission in the future.

MOTION: J. Jerma to issue COA with the following conditions: 1) Siding is Hardiplank lap siding with 4 inch exposure, smooth texture, and is paintable; 2) Corner Boards to be PVC, stealth style, 1x6,

smooth texture, and paintable; 3) Window Trim to be 1x6 or to match original, paintable; 4) Window Sills to be 1.5 to 2 inch, paintable PVC; 5) Water table is subject to site visit. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

- 6) **Continued - 19HDC-68 (22 Monument Ave)** – COA for an electric charging station to be installed at Town Hall for new electric Town vehicles. Max Kasper and Molly O’Connell met with Richard Smith on site and determined a new location – adjacent to the building, in between the main building and the garage, where there are two parking spaces available.

MOTION: J. Jurma to issue COA with the following conditions: 1) that the installation be sighted as to not block views of the windows and 2) installed without bollards. Seconded by S. Belkin; unanimously approved.

Commission members expressed concerns about recent remarks at a Select Board meeting and invite all members of other boards and commissions to attend an upcoming HDC meeting.

J. Jurma introduced Ingrid Strong, a new Swampscott resident with experience and interest in historic preservation.

Molly O’Connell
Senior Planner