

Historic District Commission Public Hearing Minutes – November 6, 2023

Time: 7:33PM – 9:03PM

Members Present: Ben Franklin, Jer Jurma, Ingrid Strong, Sylvia Belkin, Richard Smith

Members Absent: Andrew Steingiser

Staff Present: Marissa Meaney (Land Use Coordinator)

Location: VIRTUAL via Microsoft Teams

Received by Town Clerk

February 7, 2024, 11:12am

Agenda:

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- a. **23HDC-38 (91 Farragut Rd)** – by Brian Dohm. Request to restore 20 original windows.

B. Franklin does not see any issues with the application.

J. Jurma commended Mr. Dohm for a job well-done, but thinks that this application otherwise qualifies for a Certificate of Non-Applicability (CONA).

MOTION: S. Belkin to approve the CONA. I. Strong seconds; unanimously approved.

- b. **23HDC-37 (71 Farragut Rd)** – by Drew & Jackie Deppen. Request to reconstruct front porch.

The homeowners initially sought a Certificate of Non-Applicability from the Historic District Commission, indicating in their application that the porch would be restored to maintain its original design and materials. However, following a change in design and materials, the homeowners were asked to apply for a certificate of appropriateness and appeared before the Commission.

B. Franklin pulled up side-by-side images of the original porch and the porch as it currently stands, and pointed out the key differences and substantial variation from the original design. J. Deppen stated that she did not realize that a change in design would trigger review by the Commission.

J. Jurma clarified that the building permit application only indicates work for residing of the house. He stated that this is the most difficult situation they have ever come across.

The Commission began its review with analyzing what should have been built, and any variants of such design became points of discussion. B. Franklin stated that this is not a great place to start, but the Commission otherwise lacks a full set of plans. J. Deppen clarified that plans do not exist because it was not their intent to change the design of the porch, but decisions were rather made as construction progressed.

J. Jurma explained the bylaws and design standards that the Commission is charged with upholding. B. Franklin explained to the homeowners that a more complete application, with plans, is needed for review. The Commission thus presented the homeowners with options as to how to move forward.

MOTION: J. Jurma to continue hearing to special meeting scheduled for November 20th. S. Belkin seconds; unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion: Bylaws and procedures – The Commission would like to schedule a meeting with the Community Development and Building Departments to strategize and prevent violations from happening again. They would like to understand better the process for which a building permit is applied and obtained, and how the inspectors are charged with reporting violations to the Commission. Marissa Meaney, Land Use Coordinator, is familiar with the building permitting system and offered to give the Commission a tutorial, but will also talk to the Building Department about getting a meeting scheduled.

Lilac Garden – Gino Cresta, Director of Public Works, will submit a COA application for the installation of the third bench.