



Landmark Preservation Board
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Common Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Radke called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Tom Cantwell, Cynthia Carrington Carter, Bob Haley, Dan Leary, Julia Marshall, Don Radke

Excused: Andrew Besemer, Jeff Romano, Joe Saya

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from previous meeting were not available for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Use Variance: 514 W. Seneca Turnpike. Frank Barletta (applicant) and Joseph Cali (owner) made the presentation regarding the Use Variance application. The application is for the conversion of the c. 1812 house into a commercial beauty salon; the majority of salon will be located in the modern garage that is attached to the rear of the house. The application also includes the removal of a prefabricated barn and the construction of a 10-car parking lot at the rear of the house with a double-width driveway and curb cut. D. Radke clarified that the Board has no jurisdiction over use, but noted that alterations to the property that result from the change in use come under Board review. F. Barletta stated that changes to the historic house would be limited to the installation of a new door on the northeast side of the house. In addition, the garage doors will be removed and replaced with windows. He also mentioned a ramp, which does not appear on the plans.

The board had no issue with the alterations to the modern garage or the removal of the prefabricated barn structure. However, C. Carter commented that the parking, which is visible from the street, and the extra-width driveway are inappropriate to the character of the property. The board discussed screening for the parking lot.

D. Radke noted that there was insufficient information to comment on the proposed alterations to the house. In order to complete its review, the board will need elevation drawings, specifications for the new doorway, landscaping and screening plan and information about the ramp system.

DISCUSSION

Historic Landscapes and Tree Species Diversity: Thornden, Elmwood, Onondaga Park (Upper and Lower), Oakwood and Rosewood cemeteries.

Chris Capella-Peters (SHPO) and Steve Harris (City-County Arborist) discussed planting in historic landscapes. S. Harris noted that his office is now planning for the possible arrival of the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB). He stated that the federal government is involved in controlling the invasion of the pest, which favors a range of host trees. He noted that 28,000 street trees were removed in Worcester, MA in an attempt to control ALB. City Parks Department is in the midst of a tree planting program and is seeking

to plant trees that are not ALB hosts. Historic landscapes are of particular concern because of the desire to retain the characteristics of the historic tree plantings.

C. Capella-Peters stated that in cases where it is not an in-kind replacement, the State Historic Preservation Office starts by comparing form and habit of replacement tree species. Other important characteristics include fall color, bark color and texture, leaf character (compound or broad leaf) and shade density.

S. Harris and C. Capella-Peters discussed specific tree recommendations for Thornden Park. S. Harris stated that he would provide a planting plan that included a guide to the form and characteristics of the type of trees proposed.

The board also discussed the street tree plantings in Sedgwick and Berkeley Park, both of which are Garden Districts. C. Capella-Peters stated that although originally planted in a monoculture (Elm), the consistent tree canopy was lost with the loss of the original trees to disease and the city's policy to avoid planting singular species. S. Harris noted that the City is now planting under a new convention that limits planting to 5% of any one species, 10% of any particular genus, and 20% of any particular family of trees in order to protect the overall canopy cover in the city.

ADJOURN

B. Haley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by J. Marshall. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.