

SALEM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 20, 2016

A meeting of the Salem Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA. Present were Jessica Herbert (Chair), Laurie Bellin, Reed Cutting, Kathy Harper and Joanne McCrea.

1-2 Griffin Place (continuation)

As a continuation of a previous meeting, Dan Botwinick submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to renovate a 3-family house. At the previous meeting, the Commission approved a portion of the proposed work: removal of synthetic siding and restoration of wood clapboards, removal of metal entrance canopy and shutters, restoration of existing 2/2 wood windows, and replacement of existing door on east elevation with true-divided single-pane 2/2 wood window. The remaining work: removal of 2 chimneys, redesign of front entry, and installation of window trim, watertable and corner board details was continued.

The Applicant, Dan Botwinick and his design consultant Dave Becker were present.

Ms. Herbert asked whether the owner is aware of details behind the siding.

Mr. Botwinick answered that there are cornerboards but no watertable. Cornerboards are in good condition, not sure whether house originally had weatherboards (water table) and were removed.

Ms. Kelleher noted that adjoining houses do not have watertables/weatherboards.

Mr. Botwinick presented photos of a house on Broad Street with similar paint colors to what he is considering.

Ms. Kelleher stated that the hearing notice does not include paint colors.

Mr. Botwinick presented revised drawings of the entry hood with a flat shed roof and a sample of Azek material.

Ms. Herbert suggested a more simple entry hood design instead of the projecting hood with brackets to be more in keeping with simple design of the house.

Mr. Botwinick stated that his designer was envisioning a simple design with shed roof and simple bracket to keep design minimalist. But he stated that the projecting hood is needed to protect residents from the weather since this is mail will be located. A Brosco bracket will be used and transom windows will be located above the doors. He stated that he would prefer to have a projecting entry hood in order to break up long façade.

Ms. Bellin asked whether details should be added to sides of door similar to those shown in the photo of 92 Federal Street.

Mr. Botwinick stated that doors are proposed to have a 1 x 10' trim board.

Mr. Cutting suggested that incorporating a weatherboard on the building would add definition.

Mr. Botwinick asked if the weatherboard should be painted to match trim.

The Commission concurred.

The Commission discussed the use of transom windows.

Ms. Kelleher noted that the 1978 inventory form for the building includes a photo showing the doors with transom windows above.

Mr. Botwinick stated that he will be installing wider doors to match the original door openings which would in turn match the width of the transoms. Doors were originally approximately 34" and are now only 32" wide.

Ms. Bellin expressed concern that proposed transoms seem very tall.

Mr. Cutting suggested bringing the hood down over transom to minimize appearance of height.

Mr. Botwinick asked if the Commission would prefer pilasters on sides and between doors, which would tie in well if a watertable was added. He also suggested adding blocks to the base of the pilasters.

Mr. Cutting asked if pilasters should be fluted.

Applicant and Commission agreed that flat pilasters were best.

Ms. Herbert questioned if additional moulding could reduce appearance of height of transom.

Mr. Botwinick asked if Commission could give some leeway for transom design.

Ms. Harper noted that there is evidence of the original transom windows.

Ms. Herbert asked if transom would be operable.

Mr. Botwinick stated that they would be fixed.

The Commission agreed that it was best not to lower hood over transom.

Commission and applicant agreed that watertable should be 1 x 10 and/or two (2) exposures of clapboards.

At this point in the meeting, the Commission discovered that it did not have a quorum of members present at the first meeting that the application was heard.

VOTE: Ms. Bellin made a motion to approve the continuation to August 17th. Ms. McCrea seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.

13 Cambridge Street (continuation)

As a continuation of a previous meeting, Eric Richards and Michael Sherriff submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the existing front entry stair.

The applicant Eric Richards was present.

Mr. Richards presented his application to replace an existing concrete base step with a new granite slab with a thermal cushioned edge.

Ms. Herbert noted that the existing bottom step is smaller.

Mr. Richards replied that the proposed repairs will make a uniform set of stairs. Much of granite base will be covered by earth.

Ms. Bellin asked for clarification on the risers.

Mr. Richards stated that all of the risers will be slightly taller.

Ms. Herbert asked if handrails to be added.

Mr. Richards replied in the negative.

Mr. Richards asked if the Commission would be amenable to the use of teak for the top deck of the stair, which would be allowed to weather to gray.

The Commission agreed.

VOTE: *Mr. Cutting made a motion to approve the application with the revision that stairs to be constructed of teak and remain unpainted. Ms. Bellin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.*

94 Federal Street (continuation)

As a continuation of a previous meeting, James Gaull submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new stockade wood fence. At the previous meeting, the Commission had questions about the exact location and design of the proposed fence and the hearing was continued.

The applicant James Gaull was not present.

Ms. Kelleher explained that the applicant was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict. She presented the application for a new fence and indicated on the site plan where the new fence would be located.

VOTE: *Ms. Bellin made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Ms. McCrea seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried. Ms. Harper abstained.*

350-352 Essex Street (continuation)

As a continuation of a previous meeting, Blue Sky Properties submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for paint colors for the main house and carriage house. At the previous meeting, the Commission had questions about the proposed paint color scheme and the hearing was continued.

Ms. Kelleher reported that the Applicant has requested to withdraw his application without prejudice.

VOTE: *Ms. Bellin made a motion to accept the withdrawal without prejudice. Ms. McCrea seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.*

Other Business

Approval of Minutes

VOTE: *Ms. Bellin made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/6/16 with comments. Mr. Cutting seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.*

VOTE: *There being no further business, Ms. Bellin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. McCrea seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Kelleher
Community Development Planner