

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Historic District Commission and the Historical Commission

Date: February 23, 2017

Commission members present: Claudette Bishop, Bob Clark, Jeremy Gabrenas, Chris Mandel, Melissa Martinez, Lynn Shaw

Commission members absent: As the presenter for the applicant, Nancy Allen recused herself from participation as a member of the Historic District Commission.

Others present: Mark Bishop, Tom Cahill, Marie Erie, Hilary Loring, Roy Nilson, Stephanie Selden, Mary Woolsey, John Woolsey

Attachments: Agenda, notice, project application, correspondence

Hearing:

A continuation hearing to review a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a proposed handicap access ramp for the Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St.

Bob Clark opened the hearing at 7:06 PM in the Petersham Memorial Library.

A site visit was conducted on 2/22, which was attended by all members of the HDC and by Nancy Allen for the applicant.

Discussion topics included concerns that the ramp as drawn in the application did not include detailed enough measurements to determine whether the design was feasible; the length of the ramp relative to regrading the pavement and maintaining driveway access; whether increasing the grade of the pavement in front of the building would affect the handicapped parking spots; and questions about what other options would be considered if the proposed design proved to be not feasible.

Residents in attendance asked if other options besides a ramp would be considered, provided drawings of alternative ramp designs/placement, the choice of materials, and whether a roof over the entrance had been considered to protect users from falling ice.

Lynn moved, and Chris seconded, that the Commission approve the design as shown, with the condition that the ramp not impinge on the building's steps, and contingent on Commission review of final design and materials; however, no vote was taken on this motion. After further discussion, Lynn proposed the Commission take a straw vote, which showed two members who would approve the application, two members who would approve but had reservations, and two members who would deny the application.

As a result of this lack of consensus, and after further discussion, the applicant chose to withdraw the application. At 9 PM, Lynn moved the hearing be closed; Melissa seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Bishop, Clerk

Approved at HDC Meeting of April 20 2017