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Historic District Commission
Town Hall, Room 126
Final Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. Attending Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann (KAB), David Honn (DH), Pamela Lynn (PL), Ron Regan (RR), Anita Rogers (AR), Mike Gowing (MG) as BofS rep.

7:30 PM **Citizens' Questions:**

7:31 PM **Unanimous Consent to accept February 11, 2014 Minutes.**

7:36 PM **Appl. 1404: Discussion of Proposed Sign for The Studio @ Stewart Design Group, 541 Massachusetts Ave.**

Kevin Duval has conferred with the applicants and Scott Mutch, Acton's Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Kevin submitted two design alternatives, the original sign submission repositioned as a blade sign and a second blade sign with a simplified design referred to later as the "newer" design. The proposed sign designs do fit the required dimensions.

AR is comfortable with the size as is and prefers the newer "crisper" one. She would be fine with the sign being brought down a clapboard or two. AR would also be more pleased with the banner portion being a little bit less wide.

PL was enthusiastic about the new design which she felt would be far more visually effective. She also agreed with lowering the installation by two clapboards.

KAB feels that the new version is so much cleaner. The clients will be much more likely to notice it. She is also in favor of lowering by two clapboards and shrinking the size of the lower banner.

DH agreed with previous speakers and also suggested diminishing the lower portion by several inches. DH had noticed there were signs at a similar height in Concord Center.

RR had no additional comments to what other members said and preferred the newer "cleaner" design.

AR suggested that the lower sign should be no more than 30" long.

AR moved that HDC approve sign version #1 which is an oval sign with The Studio with no @ and with the change that the length of the Interior Design banner below be reduced by six inches to 30". The sign should be mounted a minimum of eight inches lower than shown in the artwork. Please see documents as submitted with COA. The sign will be painted MDO.

Seconded by PL.

Accepted unanimously pending notification of abutters.

8:00 PM Appl. 1403: Proposed Windows, 62 Windsor Ave.

KAB explained the timing of the application process and how the "lost" application fits into the time constraints. As the discussion has begun to focus on an addition rather than windows, it may be wiser to pull the existing application and resubmit a more comprehensive application.

JD Head explained that the intent is to preserve the existing house and garage. He explained their efforts to date.

JD explained that the desire is to alter the exterior of the kitchen area and the back which would not be in the purview of the HDC. The current proposal would be to move a door to the location of a present window.

DH explained that the garage is very historic both for Acton and for Massachusetts, one of the first garages. DH asked about the location of the proposed gable window replacement. DH explained the value of maintaining the original windows. In response to DH's question JD explained that the proposed gable window change is motivated by the desire to add natural light.

A porch would be added to the side which would duplicate the spirit of the front porch. This would possibly allow the original gable shape, currently partially obscured, to be revealed. Although AR pointed out that the roof as shown in elevation may not be possible geometrically with the plan as proposed and will need additional study.

JD asked about the HDC's attitude about gutters and the wrought iron railings. KAB explained that these features must be reviewed.

8:30 PM Review of Proposed New Window, 603 Mass. Ave.

Matt and Addie Morizio have submitted an application which will be #1405.

AR confirmed that the sill height of the new window would be the same as the height of the existing windows. As the proposed wood Broscio window is single paned, it will need a storm window. AR suggested the applicants consider additional wood window companies, Boston Sash being one example, as they will likely have more sizes and more flexibility to customize any new windows to be a better match for the existing.

AR explained how to measure the existing window to achieve the closest match. She also expressed concern about how close the proposed window would be to the existing corner board.

KAB suggested that they send some photos of $\frac{1}{4}$ " brick examples such as they are considering for a chimney replacement and plan to come back in two weeks. In the meantime they can submit an addendum to include chimney work.

8:57 PM Unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Lynn
Secretary

