Meeting Minutes
Longmeadow Historic District Commission
Tuesday, March 12, 2019

The Longmeadow Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00pm at the Fire Station Meeting Room.

Present from the HDC were: Cathy Kietzman, Sandy Krein, John Robbins, Carri Greenman, Tim Casey, Bret Lukezic and Rob Mulcahy. Absent were: Anthony Guardione, Melissa McDonough and Paul Calento.
Also present were: Vern Harrington, Betsy McKee, Al McKee, Marieke Burt, Stephen Kennedy, Bill Togneri, Kathy Togneri and Henry Cropsey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Public Comments:
Marieke Burt and Stephen Kennedy were representing Longmeadow Montessori and noted they are looking to replace the roof in the near future with either asphalt or metal. They also inquired about the possibility of solar panels and it was agreed that those would not be allowed in their current design (large flat panels). They will submit an application prior to starting any work.

Old Business:
Minutes from the January 8, 2019 and the 12/11/2018 were approved unanimously.

New Business:

1. Application 021919 – Bay Path University, 896 Longmeadow St. – Installation of new railings for the porch stairs. Currently there are no handrails at 896 Longmeadow St which are required per safety regulations. In addition to the wooden railings, a powder coated metal handrail will also be included to be ADA compliant. Application was approved unanimously.

2. Slideshow and discussion regarding proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations, and Design Guidelines. All of the changes were agreed to by the HDC members as well as the attending HDC residents with the exception of the pool changes. After more discussion, it was agreed that inground pools could be considered if they were located to the rear of the property (vs. side yards). Tim will be updating the change to reflect this decision. Henry Cropsey provided a memo with his concerns which shall be included with these minutes. The proposed changes will be reviewed and voted on at the April 9 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Kietzman, Clerk
March 12, 2019

Dear Historic District Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed change in the Commission's Rules and Regulations to allow in-ground pools in the Historic District. My concerns are:

1. the purpose of the Historic District is to preserve the District's unique "feel" as a living museum. Any proposed rule change should be in furtherance of and not contrary to this purpose;

2. swimming pools are not, by their nature, "historic" and are "newcomers" to the over 300 year history of the Town and, as a result, are in conflict with the goals of the Commission and the District;

3. what pools are currently in the District are all located behind the home and, for the most part, are not visible from the street except for the pool at 873 Longmeadow Street, the installation of which led to the provision prohibiting swimming pools in the District which the Commission now seeks to amend.

I would support revising the Commission's Rules and Regulations to allow in-ground pools in the Historic District WHEN THEY ARE LOCATED TO THE REAR OF THE HOME. Pools located in this fashion would not be easily visible, if at all, from the street and as result would not negatively effect the historic "feel" of the District.

This proposed rules change CAN have a major impact on the District because there are, by my count, 14 homes in the District, constituting 31% or nearly 1/3rd of the 45 residences in the District, which have side yards large enough to accommodate a pool. These homes are:

1. 826 Longmeadow Street;
2. 796 Longmeadow Street;
3. 690 Longmeadow Street;
4. 664 Longmeadow Street;
5. 663 Longmeadow Street;
6. Brick House next to the Community House;
7. 931 Longmeadow Street;
8. 951 Longmeadow Street
9. 977 Longmeadow Street;
10. 1028 Longmeadow Street;
11. 956 Longmeadow Street;
12. 942 Longmeadow Street;
13. 918 Longmeadow Street;
14. 878 Longmeadow Street.

I appreciate your taking my concerns under consideration.

Very truly yours,

Henry Cropsey