

Minutes of the
Longmeadow Historic District Commission
December 13, 2005

Present: Pat Duquette, Bob Fein, Crystal Diamond, Eleanor Santos, John Robbins, Karen Lazeration, Jewel Reed, Ed Burt

Absent: Mark Sirulnik,

Public present: Bob McTaggart, Stan Cummings, Nancy Rogers

Due to the late arrival of our members, the meeting was called to order at 7:45.

Nancy Rogers recommended that we approach the school department to change their lights to coordinate with the street lights recently installed in the District. The school lights are yellow (sodium vapor?) and the street lights are white. She also expressed the opinion that there were many more lights than necessary at the school. John agreed to send a letter.

Application 2005.12.13.05

969 Longmeadow St.

Mr. McTaggart had purchased windows to completely restore all the windows to 12 over 12 thirty-seven years ago. He is requesting permission to install the final two north windows, which are the only windows remaining to be replaced. Upon completion, all the sash windows of the house will be matching 12 over twelve. The paint would be white to match the house.

A vote was taken. The board unanimously approved the application.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as distributed.

New Business:

A significant portion of the fence of 896 and 906 Longmeadow St. has been removed without approval from the Historic District Commission. The effect of this action is to merge the two properties. It also allows the current driveway to be gradually widened, which would also be in violation. Karen asked whether a temporary fence could be requested, if the ground is deemed too frozen to replace the fence at this time. John has sent a letter to Bay Path advising them of their violation.

Mr. McTaggart questioned whether the commission has approached the planning board about the apparent change of use of the driveway in 906. John did send such a letter, but we have not as yet received a satisfactory response. He will follow up with the Planning Board.

Crestview Circle has replaced the lights on the pillars at the beginning of that street. The town office did not know of a Crestview Circle homeowner's association. Mr. McTaggart said that such an organization does exist. A letter will be sent advising them that before a change such as this is made an application must be made.

The Knox property is not in the Historic District but they are in violation of the conservation and zoning laws. This is an historic house, and if it had been covered by the HDC there would have been more support which would have helped control what happened.

Jewel drafted a letter as a sample which she suggested be sent to a new resident of the District who is unaware of the restrictions involved in doing maintenance or making changes to the property. John will follow up with a similar letter and a phone call.

Crystal and Pat will put together a packet to be sent to all members of the District. This will also be sent to any new residents as they move in to the district.

Karen made a summary of the requirements of application process. From this John has made a monthly meeting and an application checklist to help us be sure that we complete all the appropriate steps.

Old Business

Expansion of the Historic District: The Historical Commission is very committed to help in this endeavor. A meeting to initiate such an expansion will take place tomorrow. He shared a map which is being prepared which would contain all the properties in the proposed expansion. At the moment the proposed expansion would contain all the houses around the green to their rear property lines, and all houses in town from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It is hoped that the proposal will be ready to be presented at a public hearing in mid-February, and voted on at the spring town meeting.

Community development meeting. A by-law is being proposed that would give the planning board jurisdiction over access roads to proposed subdivisions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10
Minutes by Eleanor Santos

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00