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Brookline Preservation Commission
MINUTES OF THE July 14, 2021 MEETING
Held Virtually using Zoom Online Software

Commissioners Present:

David Jack
Elizabeth Armstrong, Alternate
Wendy Ecker
Jim Batchelor
John Spiers, Alternate
Elton Elperin, Chair
Peter Kleiner
Richard Panciera, Vice Chair

Commissioners Absent:

David King

Staff: Tina McCarthy

Mr. Elperin called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Ms. McCarthy presented the background of the Olmsted Richardson LHD study report (SR).

Mr. Elperin spoke about those involved in writing the SR.

Mr. Jack spoke about the SR writing group and introduced the authors.

Ms. Armstrong said that the SR is an incredible piece of work and recognized Jean Woy and Dennis DeWitt for their contributions.

Mr. DeWitt noted the unprecedented response to the threat of demolition, which cast a new light on these properties and their histories. He then gave a summary of SR findings.

Arelyn Levy noted the importance of the settings for the buildings.

Public Comment

Linda Pelkhe – TMM P2, urban planner, thank you for your work. Noted the importance of the settings.

Wendy Machmuller – TMM P5, board of Friends of Fairsted. Full support but very nervous about politics at Town Meeting. But this is so different. Two greats of our country. Educational opportunity. Share impact on our lives that we don't even think about. Please go forward and let me help build consensus.

Mr. Batchelor – is there adequate guidance here in terms of landscape? Topography is varied, want to make sure we articulate what needs to be protected in the landscape.

Dennis Dewitt – flat abutting streets and drop to ravine in back. Proposal to move the Richardson house, gives pause, HHR lot has been significantly reduced. Is relocation appropriate? SR and Warrant Article not really the place for this language.

46
47 Ms. Levy – landscape give the properties their special character. Critical. Not necessary built.
48 Keep in mind – proposals we viewed take away the space around homes. Setting. Junction of
49 road with cottage, setback is crucial in the neighborhood character.
50
51 Mr. Elperin – speaking with opponents, they say why preserve if not visible to public.
52
53 Dennis Dewitt – should have conservation easement limiting plantings to protect view shed.
54 Meadow in front of 222. 25’s drive was the 222 Drive now. This drive opened to Old Green
55 Hill.
56
57 Mr. Elperin – the state of house has also been raised. But the core and bedroom is intact.
58
59 Dennis Dewitt – yes, could be restored.
60
61 Mr. Elperin – asks for any objections to SR.
62
63 Mr. Batchelor – is there a way to make it more clear what important landscape features are? Not
64 guidelines, just clarification. Support report with this addition.
65
66 Ms. Armstrong – not sure I have information to make this change.
67
68 Mr. Dewitt and Ms. Levy volunteered to write this section.
69
70 Mr. Batchelor – will join to weigh in.
71
72 Mr. Spiers – Should public see it?
73
74 Ms. McCarthy – there is another hearing.
75
76 Mr. Elperin, Mr. Batchelor, Mr. DeWitt, Ms. Levy, Ms. Woy, and Mr. Jack to review changes
77 to document.
78
79 Mr. Elperin – made a motion that the study committee send the SR to MHC & Planning Board
80 after some writing is done, writing committee empowered to address landscape.
81
82 Mr. Jack seconded the motion.
83
84 Mr. Jack – yes, Mr. Batchelor – yes, Wendy Ecker – yes, Mr. Kleiner – yes, Mr. Panciera – yes,
85 Mr. Elperin – yes.
86
87
88 Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.