

Minutes from Historic Preservation Commission Special Meeting on Jan. 25, 2018

In Attendance: Kelly Kessler, Neal Acito, Robert Wendel, Jennifer Jaruzelski, Maria Boyes, Alison Carey, David Hagan, Tom Jardim, Michael LaPlace

Absent: Jenn Czarnecki, James Corcoran, Joseph Biren, Doug Stokes, Michael Fisher

- Signing of Oath by new members
- Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read
- Introductions were made by both new and old members

Discussion of Proposed Subdivision of 667 4th Avenue, the Matthias Sayre Farmhouse:

- Town Attorney, Tom Jardim discussed application process and directed members towards pertinent areas in ordinance
- Reminded members that the entire site is a designated historic landmark
- Commission's position is to determine if consistent with HPC ordinance
- Michael LaPlace asked for clarification, as Planning Board liaison and a voting member of Planning board, if he is limited in his role to this commission. Mr. Jardim said he is not.
- Discussion ensued questioning the visibility of the home on the historic site with a new home in the front yard if the proposed subdivision were to be granted
- Mr. Jardim stated that HPC's role is "clearly defined" as an advisory role to the Planning Board, and it is to determine whether this subdivision negatively or positively impacts this historic landmark
- Neal Acito and Robert Wendel presented a visual historic timeline as to the significant Westfield history associated with the site and prominent families who lived there
- Review of prior subdivision as a comparison, 508 (now 500) Salter Place however the two properties are different in that the subdivided side lot was previously excluded from the historic designation process by the owners at the time.
- It was decided that vote would take place at next meeting

Brief Discussion of 1481 East Broad Street

- HPC was contacted by owner's daughter regarding possibly moving home from the property
- Property is historic but not designated
- It was decided more time is needed to discuss as other potential avenues may be available including meeting with the homeowner.

Meeting Open to Public

- Debbie Burslem, 256 Kimball Ave; stated she has been coming to meetings for 20 years and would like to see the ordinance changed. The Commission stated that this was something they were planning to do.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15