

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Calhoun-Ives, Sunny Ridge and Washington Green Historic Districts

Minutes – March 21, 2022

Members Present: Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Averill, Ms. Woodroofe
Members Absent: Ms. Boyer, Ms. Mills
Alternates Present: Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Ferreira
Alternates Absent: Mr. Fairbairn
Clerk: Mr. Buell

Regular Meeting

Call to Order.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and seated Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Averill, Ms. Woodroofe, Mr. Rimsky (for Ms. Boyer), and Mr. Ferreira (for Ms. Mills).

Consideration of Minutes for the February 28, 2022 Meeting

Motion: To accept the February 28, 2022 minutes as written by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Averill. Passed unanimously.

Delay of Demo Update

Mr. Hollinger stated that Mr. Rimsky and Ms. Woodroofe had met with the Board of Selectmen, and asked that they provide the Commission with an update on the proposed Delay of Demolition Ordinance.

Mr. Rimsky stated that the Board of Selectmen had expressed 4 concerns over the proposed ordinance after reviewing the 8th draft of the document. These concerns are as follows.

1. The Board of Selectmen felt that the process described within the proposed ordinance regarding public notification was somewhat confusing. Mr. Rimsky explained that this section of the proposal referred to another section of the document which made the process more complicated

than need be. He went on to state that this section of the proposed ordinance has been simplified to address these concerns.

2. The Selectmen expressed concern over wording within the document which indicated the timeline for the review committee to look over applications for the demolition of a building. The proposed ordinance indicated the committee had “reasonable time” to review applications, and the Selectmen stated that a specific timeline should be provided in place of this ambiguous wording. Mr. Rimsky indicated that the document had been revised to include a 30-day timeline.
3. Ms. Woodroffe stated that the third concern expressed by the Town Selectmen had been the penalty for violating the ordinance. Ms. Woodroffe indicated that the Selectmen had felt that the fine had been onerous. Ms. Woodroffe and Mr. Rimsky expressed their belief that the fine was necessary because without it the proposed ordinance would be ineffective.
4. Mr. Rimsky indicated that the fourth point of concern expressed by the Town Selectmen was a section of the proposed ordinance which would require applicants to put up a sign to inform the public of their intention to demolish the building. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hollinger asked if the proposed ordinance was now ready for the Selectmen to put to a town meeting. Mr. Rimsky indicated that new revisions to the document had been sent to the Selectmen for their review and that Ms. Woodroffe and he hoped that the Selectmen would be willing to put the proposed ordinance on the agenda for a town meeting with no further revisions. Discussion ensued.

New/Other Business

Ms. Woodroffe asked if the Frederick Gunn School still needed to return to the Historic District Commission with information for the proposed Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship. The Commission informed her that the Certificate of Appropriates had been granted at a previous meeting.

Adjournment.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. by Ms. Woodroffe, seconded by Ms.
Averill. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Historic District Commission Clerk
3-25-2022