

Town of Harwich
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Historic District and Historical Commission Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
REMOTE
Public Hearing

I. Call to Order

Members and Staff Present: Chairperson Mary Maslowski, Julia Eldredge, Jeanne Steiner, Brendan Lowney, Bob Doane, and Historic Assistant Melyssa Millett

Others in Attendance: Saumil Patel, Bill Crowell, Mike Diverio, Barbara Nickerson

Chairperson Mary Maslowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Maslowski welcomes Melyssa Millett as the new staff person who will be assisting the Commission.

II. Public Hearing

- A. **HH2020-12 Certificate of Applicability (COA)** has been received for 711 Main Street, Map 41, Parcel D8 in the C-V and the Harwich Center Historic District. The application proposes to install an enclosed mechanical energy appliance (generator) at the rear of the building. The application is pursuant to MGL c. 40C, Section 6 and the Code of the Town of Harwich, Chapter 131, Historic Preservation, Article I. Saumil Patel, owner and applicant.

Saumil Patel, owner and applicant presented the project. Mr. Patel explained that the generator would be enclosed by a wooden fence similarly to the dumpsters.

Ms. Maslowski inquired about soundproofing and how often testing would occur, which Mr. Patel stated could be considered if the Commission wished, and that the plan was to test every few weeks. Mr. Doane suggested that the fence is generally enough to buffer the sound, but wanted to be sure that the generator would meet MA sound standards. Ms. Steiner agreed that she was not worried about regular tests.

Hearing no further comments, Ms. Maslowski called for a motion.

Mr. Doane motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ms. Eldredge. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Doane motioned to approve the Certificate as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lowney. Motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. **HH2020-13 Notice of Intent (NOI)** has been received for 68 Snow Inn Road, Map 15, Parcel N9-2, in the C-V zoning district. The application is pursuant to the Code of the Town of Harwich Chapter 131, Historic Preservation, Article II, for a partial demolition the certain portions of southerly side of the structure described as squaring off the octagonal room, adding to the existing deck, construct a 3rd floor deck and a 1st floor patio and construct a new, full foundation. Additionally, the application proposes an interior gut. Michael and Michaela Diverio, owners.

Attorney William Crowell presented the project and reviewed the historic status of the building.

Ms. Maslowski clarifies with Mr. Crowell which of the pictures included with the application belong to which pieces of the project. Owner, Michael Diverio clarified the plan.

Ms. Steiner voiced her concern about the contemporary aesthetic of the addition. Mr. Diverio explained that when it is finished it will match the historic style of the rest of the house. Ms. Steiner clarified that the only real change is to the third floor dormer. Mr. Diverio responded that it was the third floor dormer and the change of shape of the octagonal room.

Mr. Doane asked if they have definitive proof that the octagonal room was added in 1999. Mr. Crowell responded that that is the supposition, but the records do not show the exact year. Mr. Doane agreed that it did not look original, but definitely old. Mr. Doane confirmed that the molding and trim would be kept the same, and asked what the plan was for the windows. Mr. Diverio confirmed that the molding would match, and stated that their goal with the windows was to restore the house to look more historic.

Mr. Lowney asked that they make sure there is not more historic data on the house.

Harwich resident, Barbara Nickerson, explained that she does not feel this plan matches the historic façade, and asked about the current foundation for the house. Mr. Crowell explained that the house currently sits on cinderblocks on sand, and that the foundation would be squared off to match the first floor plan. Ms. Nickerson asked about additional bedrooms and construction, and Ms. Maslowski responded that these items do not fall under the Historic Commission's purview.

Ms. Maslowski asked about the timeline for this project going to ZBA, which was provided by Mr. Crowell.

Ms. Steiner asked that the decks and railing material match the historic nature of the house. Mr. Diverio explained that they want to make the deck and windows look more classic.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Ms. Maslowski called for a motion.

Ms. Steiner motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Lowney. Motion carried 5-0-0.
Mr. Lowney motioned to approve the NOI pending the submittal of final drawings with no changes to the Greek revival front. Seconded by Mr. Doane. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Ms. Maslowski stated that these plans are to be filed with the Building Department before the demo permit is issued.

III. Public Meeting

Update on Demolition Delay Bylaw – meeting with Administration

Ms. Steiner and Ms. Maslowski explained that they had met with Administration to discuss the fee increase to \$500 daily if the demo-delay is not followed or occurs without a permit, as well as a delay in permitting. They also discussed involving and engaging the building inspectors. Administration recommended that the fee be kept at \$300 per day for enforcement reasons, and was in support of moving on to Town Council, and then to Town Meeting.

Update on Community Preservation Committee status

Mr. Doane gave an update on the CPC applications from Brooks Academy and the Cemetery.

Review of 2021 Meeting dates

All members were in agreement that the dates look good, but that approval would be held until the next meeting so that everyone could check their schedules.

Reports from Commission Members

Ms. Maslowski reminded any members of the public that there are openings on the Commission if anyone is interested, and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

IV. Adjourn- The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

Mrs. Eldredge moved to adjourn at 6:55 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Doane. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melyssa Millett

Approved: January 20, 2021