

Town of Carlisle

MASSACHUSETTS 01741

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes July 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the Heald Room at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Kathy Keller (co-Chair), Annette Lee (co-Chair), Geoff Freeman, Ed Rolfe and Eric Adams.

Alternate present: Jack O'Connor

Others Present: Sylvia Sillers (Concord St.), Jen Bush (Church St.) and Wanda Avril (Carlisle Mosquito).

Draft Minutes 6/12/19

The Commission reviewed the draft Minutes from this meeting and a few revisions were proposed. Mr. Rolfe moved that the Commission approve the Minutes of 6/12/19 as amended, co-Chair Keller seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0-1 (O'Connor abstained).

Application #19-06: Driveway resurfacing and rain diverter at 49 Concord St. – Sylvia Sillers

Alternate member Jack O'Connor recused himself from this public hearing, as he is an abutter to the subject property. Ms. Sillers explained that this application is for two changes. First, the replacement of the temporary rain diverter that was installed at her address last year with a larger one of the same design and material (copper). The existing temporary diverter is 5.5 ft. long and 3 in. high, while the new diverter will be 19 ft. long and 4.75 in. high. Her application included a photo of the current diverter installed along the roof of the farmers porch in the area of her front door, and a Photoshop image of the proposed one centered over the front door. Ms. Sillers explained that she had already tried replacing the diverter with one 2 ft. wider on each side, but that it did not adequately divert rain.

Ms. Sillers explained that the second proposed change is to replace the surface of the parking space at the front of her driveway, which is currently crushed stone, with cobblestone inlay. The inlay would have a sloped granite border and a corner drain to an in-ground drywell. Her application included a detailed drawing of the proposed cobbled area, with dimensions, and specs for the corner drain. Ms. Sillers explained that she had installed an in-ground drywell, which she said is a "by right" installation, to catch rainwater from Mr. O'Connor's roof.

Co-Chair Lee asked Ms. Sillers why she did not seek the Commission's approval of the rain diverter that is currently in place, and Ms. Sillers explained that she wanted to see if it worked. Co-Chair Lee emphasized that an application to the Commission had been required for the diverter, and that the Commission seeks to treat all Historic District residents equally in the requirement that an application be submitted for any exterior structural or hardscape changes visible from a public way. She added that this action by Ms. Sillers puts the Commission in an awkward situation, as a resident had contacted the Commission about the installation of the diverter, and asked if an application for this installation had come before the Commission. Co-Chair Keller reiterated the importance of applying the same standards to all Historic District residents, and that an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness should have been submitted for this installation.

Concerning the proposed resurfacing of the parking space at the head of her driveway, Ms. Sillers referred to the sketch included with her application, explaining that the proposed surface is a running bond cobblestone inlay, laid in concrete, filled with Sakrete gray/black diamond polymeric sand. Reclaimed cobblestone pavers would be used, with dimensions of 7-9 in. l x 4 in. h x 4 in. w. The proposed area for resurfacing is trapezoidal in shape: 12 ft. W at the head x 13 ft. W at the base, 25 ft. L on the east boundary nearest the abutter, and 31 ft. L on the west boundary nearest her front yard. The proposed granite borders will be the same as the existing granite along what will be the west border of the inlay area. Ms. Sillers said that the entire surface will have a slight pitch both laterally and longitudinally to the corner drain. The proposed drain is 9 in. x 9 in. black plastic.

(over)

The Commission discussed the proposed overall dimensions of the area to be resurfaced, expressing a preference for a more rectangular shape. Ms. Sillers explained that the diagonal border proposed for the rear of the space is to allow for some resurfaced area behind her car. The Commission suggested extending the far border to 31 ft. along the east side, even if it means extending a grass verge that flanks the eastern border, to create a more rectangular shape of the inlay area. The Commission planned a site visit for 8:00 am Wednesday, July 24, confirming that Ms. Sillers can be present at that time. A subsequent meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 25 at 8:00 am for continuation and completion of this public hearing.

Other Business

Co-Chair Keller reminded the Commission that a few months prior Administrative Assistant Caywood had reluctantly expressed that she will need to resign from her role for the Commission due to increasing demands of a full-time position in the Planning Board at Town Hall. Ms. Caywood had proposed a resignation date of 9/1/19. Co-Chair Keller said that she and co-Chair Lee began the process of seeking a replacement in the role, have recently interviewed candidates, and that they have selected Maureen Adema who works part-time in municipal offices of another town, and who has prior experience as a Historical Commission Assistant elsewhere. The Commission members thanked Ms. Caywood for her 13 plus years of service.

Upcoming meeting dates

The August meeting date had previously been set for Wednesday, 8/21/19. The September meeting date was set for Wednesday, 9/18/19.

At 8:25 pm, Mr. Rolfe moved and Mr. Freeman seconded the adjournment of the meeting, and the motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Caywood
Administrative Assistant,
Carlisle Historical Commission