

Approved 12/21/09

Minutes of the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District

November 16, 2009 - 5:30 pm - 831 Massachusetts Ave., Basement Conference Room

Members Present: Theresa Hamacher, *Chair*; Art Bardige, *Vice Chair*; Heli Meltsner, *Alternate*

Staff: Susan Maycock

Members of the Public: see attached list

With a quorum present, Ms. Hamacher called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. She introduced the commissioners and reviewed the jurisdiction and procedures of the Commission. She designated alternate member Ms. Meltzner to vote on all matters.

Public Hearings: Alterations to Designated Properties

AH-326 (continued): 27 Agassiz St., by Rebecca Streeter and Michel Tellier. To remove side door and porch; add new window and side entrance door and surround; repair or replace shingles and trim as required.

Ms. Hamacher summarized the discussion at the last meeting (October 19, 2009). The plans submitted at that meeting had created concern that the proposed door would visually compete with the front door of the house, and the Commission had asked the applicants for a simplified proposal.

Rebecca Streeter, owner of 27 Agassiz St., presented the simplified design for the proposed side entrance: a simple 3' 7" black door under a hip roof hood which extends 2' from the side wall of the house and is supported on simple curved brackets. There are no sidelights and nothing ornate in the proposed plan.

Ms. Meltsner asked if it would be a wooden door. Ms. Streeter responded that it would be fiberglass because of moisture issues.

Mr. Bardige asked if the door would be at ground level and if that would cause any problems. Ms. Streeter responded that the door would be 4" above the ground to account for moisture issues.

Michael Bentley, 33 Agassiz St, presented a memo dated November 16, 2009 which asked for a full elevation drawing to show precisely how the proposed entrance would impact the design of the house. He said that without such an elevation, the door risked ending up looking hacked in rather than integrated into the design.

Ms. Meltsner observed that the two drawings submitted did not match: the slope of the roof was different and the schematic elevation showed no brackets under the hood.

Ms. Streeter said that it was the limitation of the software she was using.

Ms. Meltsner added that the discrepancies did not concern her because the described solution seems to be appropriate and to address the concerns of the AHNCD: that the entrance looks contemporary, not original but that it is in keeping with the house.

Jerry Callen, 63 Orchard St., after looking at the new drawings, said that he thought that this simpler design looks better.

Jackie Spencer, 30 Lancaster Street, did not think that the simpler form would detract from the house.

Ms. Hamacher said that the Commission was always appreciative of detailed drawings but did not require owners to hire an architect to make such detailed drawings. She thought the new design was appropriate to the house and was consistent with the discussion at the last meeting. Mr. Bardige agreed.

Ms. Meltsner moved to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the revised plans dated October 23, 2009 for the side entrance, for the replacement garage doors as submitted October 13, 2009, and for the pair of windows to replace the current side door shown on the plans dated September 30, 2009 provided that the window configuration and trim match the existing windows on that elevation of the house, because these changes would be appropriate for the style of the house and garage. Mr. Bardige seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

AH-333: 10 Avon Place, by Vivek Unni. To install new window opening on north side. *A request to withdraw the application has been received.*

Ms. Hamacher moved to accept the request to withdraw the application. Mr. Bardige seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

Minutes

Ms. Meltsner pointed out that her name was misspelled in the draft of the minutes of October 19, 2009. She moved approval of the minutes with those corrections. Mr. Bardige seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Maycock
Survey Director

Members of the public in attendance November 16, 2009

Rebecca Streeter, 27 Agassiz St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Jackie Spencer, 30 Lancaster St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Jerry Callen, 63 Orchard St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Michael Bentley, 33 Agassiz St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Colette Bentley, 33 Agassiz St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Katy Petersen, 63 Orchard St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Erin Chapman, 63 Brighton Ave., #6, Allston, MA 02134