

Minutes of the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District

Monday, September 24, 2012 - 5:30 P.M. - 831 Massachusetts Ave., Basement Conference Rm

Commissioners Present: Theresa Hamacher, *Chair*; Art Bardige, *Vice Chair*;
Catherine Henn, *Member*;

Mark Golberg, Heli Meltsner, and Constantin von Wentzel, *Alternates*

Commissioners Absent: Robert Crocker, Maryann Thompson, *Members*

Staff Present: Sarah Burks

Members of the Public: see attached sign-in sheet

With a quorum present, Chair Theresa Hamacher called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. She made introductions and reviewed the hearing procedures.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties

AH-430: 36 Arlington St., by Seth Friedman. Replace the fence on right side of property.

Sarah Burks, Preservation Planner, showed slides and summarized the application. She reported that she had met informally on site with the applicant and his contractor to discuss the termination point of the fence at the front corner of the house and noted that they had taken that suggestion and incorporated it into the application proposal.

Stephen Doran, the contractor, described the existing wood stockade fence, which would be replaced with a new universal solid board fence. [Heli Meltsner arrived].

Ms. Burks asked if the top of the fence would be 6' from the ground. Mr. Doran replied that it would be 6' plus or minus a few inches.

Vincent Panico, attorney for the applicant, noted that the fence would be painted the same color as the fence at 151 Brattle Street, which was Essex Green.

Art Bardige asked if there was a fence on the rear property line.

Seth Friedman, the applicant, replied that there was but that he had no plans to change the existing rear fence at this time. [Constantin von Wentzel arrived].

Ms. Burks pointed out that fences were typically painted the same color as the trim of a house, but paint color was not reviewed in neighborhood conservation districts. She noted that since this side fence was an extension of perimeter plant material, the dark green color would probably help it disappear from view. She reported that she had approved a fence around the existing air conditioning condensers at the back of Mr. Friedman's side porch, which was largely obscured from view by existing plant material.

Ms. Hamacher said the proposed board fence was an appropriate replacement of the existing fence.

Catherine Henn said the proposed fence was appropriate because it was consistent in height with the existing fence and was not incongruous to the district. She moved to approve the application, as presented, noting that the commission did not have jurisdiction to review the paint

color. Ms. Meltsner seconded the motion. Ms. Hamacher designated the alternates to vote on all matters, and the motion passed 5-0.

Staff Report

Ms. Meltsner commented that the granite posts at 79 Raymond Street had been removed and a metal fence was being installed. She noted that they had also planted tall trees at the front of the lot. She said the Commission should have some review over the fences and plantings.

Mr. Bardige noted that the granite posts were not a historical feature, but had been installed by the previous owner.

Ms. Hamacher asked the staff to check the landscape plan and the ongoing work and report back to the Commission.

Ms. Burks agreed. She noted that the owners had submitted an application for a 4' fence at the front, which was approved by the staff with a Certificate of Nonapplicability because it matched the height of the previous fence and met the exemption in the district guidelines.

Minutes

Mr. Bardige moved to approve the January 23, 2012 minutes as submitted. Ms. Meltsner seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Mr. von Wentzel asked when the terms of the Commissioners would expire. Ms. Burks said she would check on the terms of their appointments and report back. [Mark Golberg arrived].

Mr. von Wentzel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Henn seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Burks
Preservation Planner

**Members of the Public
that Signed Attendance Sheet
September 24, 2012**

Seth Friedman
Stephen Doran

36 Arlington St.
33 Duane Dr., West Reading, MA 01864

Addresses are in Cambridge, unless otherwise specified.