

MINUTES OF THE HALF CROWN-MARSH NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Approved at the _____ Meeting

May 13, 2019 - 6:00 PM at Lombardi Building, Basement Conference Room, 831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

Commissioners present: James Van Sickle, *Chair*; Marie-Pierre Dillenseger, Peter Schur, *Members*; Adrian Catalano, *Alternate*.

Commissioners absent: Maximillian Frank, Rory O'Connor, Jo Solet.

Staff present: Eric Hill, Survey Director

Members of the Public: Rory O'Connor

James Van Sickle, Chair, called the hearing to order at 6:04pm. He stated that as the only person in attendance is Mr. O'Connor who is present on behalf of his application at 9 Foster Place, there was no need to explain the rules and procedures for the Commission. Mr. Van Sickle also noted that Mr. O'Connor was present as a member of the public and cannot vote as a member of the Commission.

HCM-455: 9 Foster Place, by Rory O'Connor and Claire Muhm. Replace door and transom at front entry.

Staff showed slides and gave a quick history of the property. He noted that Foster Place is viewed as a public way as the City of Cambridge as it is an "unaccepted private street".

Mr. Van Sickle opened the hearing up to questions of the applicant, owner or staff.

Mr. Catalano asked the applicant, Mr. O'Connor, if a mail slot was proposed as part of the replacement door. He went on to explain that it would be difficult to install a mail slot in the paneled door as presented.

Mr. O'Connor stated that they would like to install a mail slot in the door and it would just be at a height not typical with adjacent homes as the design of the door would not allow it.

Ms. Dillenseger asked the applicant if the door was original.

Mr. O'Connor explained that it is the original door.

Ms. Dillenseger then asked Mr. O'Connor if a screen door was proposed and if it was the intent to clad the door to better protect it from the elements.

Mr. O'Connor stated that a clad door is proposed as the existing door has warped, rotted and does not hold up to the weather as well as it should.

Mr. Van Sickle opened the hearing up to public comment and noted that he was mailed a letter from a Pat Pratt at 11 Brown Street addressing her support of the project. Mr. Van Sickle submitted the letter to staff to be included in the public record.

Mr. O'Connor then added that the current door is held together by bondo, and that the door is impossible to fully secure, leaving security concerns as the door is not of high integrity.

A motion to vote was called for and Peter Schur made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Commissioner Marie-Pierre Dillenseger seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 to approve the application.

Minutes of April 8, 2019 hearing:

Ms. Dillenseger made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2019 hearing pending minor edits. Commissioner Schur seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes, 4-0 (O'Connor did not vote).

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hill
Survey Director, Cambridge Historical Commission