

Westwood Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
April 14, 2010

Attendees: Beth Staples, Linda Salib, Gregory Dietrich (consultant), Ann Costello, Councilwoman Cynthia Waneck

Absent: George Mulhauser, Mike Lewis, Robert Bicchochi

The Westwood Historic Preservation Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7:30pm in the Westwood Municipal Complex.

Ann Costello updated the Commission on certain applications pending before the boards:

- Pompilio's – Ann indicated that it was presented to the Zoning Board that the WHC had “approved” the proposed Pompilio's façade changes. The Commission clarified that it had not given an approval as that is beyond the Commission's purview, but that it did state that the applicant's suggested colors were consistent with the historic district and that the current blue façade appeared to be damaged and in need of repair or removal.
- Verizon Antenna on the Bank of America Building at 1 Westwood Avenue– Ann distributed photos of the bank building with a view of the proposed antenna enclosure “photoshopped” into the picture. She informed the Commission that there was some question as to whether or not the applicant had sought to co-locate the antenna with the existing cell tower antenna within the borough. The applicant believed that the Borough was not desirous of such co-location. Questions ensued from the board as to the accuracy of this belief. Ann said that the Zoning Board is going to review the history of the applicant's correspondence with the Borough as it dates from the time of a previous Administration.
- CVS at 289 Broadway – Ann showed the Commission new revised plans with a neo-traditional/colonial façade instead of the previous neo-Tudor. The Commission discussed these new plans submitted and agreed upon the following specific comments:
 - 1) the proposed building construction continues to be out of character with these historic districts;
 - 2) the building was of a size much larger than the current structure on the site and much larger than those found within the streetscapes;
 - 3) its façade was jarringly inconsistent with the streetscapes in that it features a solid wall of brick. The architectural details were described as similar to the false facades in a Disney World-type structure having only a front view while being readily apparent as faux from side views;
 - 4) its façade is not in character with the streetscapes of small shops characterized by multiple voids;
 - 5) it is inconsistent with its surrounding area wherein the buildings on the opposite corner feature grass setbacks; and
 - 6) the proposed drive-in windows are jarringly inconsistent with the streetscapes as such drive-in windows are not permitted for retail establishments and are not historically consistent with the Borough's retail uses.

Beth Staples presented the Commission with the first draft of the paperwork necessary for formal designation of historic properties along Jefferson Avenue. It was determined that our consultant, Gregory Dietrich, would draft an overall description and Significance Statement for the Jefferson Avenue Streetscape and that Councilwoman Waneck would check with the Borough as to the availability of the required tax information for the forms. The properties currently being considered would include 57 Jefferson, 59 Jefferson, 63 Jefferson, 73 Jefferson, 77 Jefferson, 84 Washington Avenue, 96 Washington Avenue, 19-25 Boulevard, 104 Center Avenue, 489 Fairview Avenue, WW Railroad Station, and the Martin House on Fairview Avenue.

Discussion ensued as to the timeline for completion of the paperwork. It was determined that the project will take longer than originally anticipated and that formal notice and the hearing would have to take place in the summer or fall.

The meeting was closed in due form.