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Brookline Preservation Commission
MINUTES OF THE July 21, 2021 MEETING
Held Virtually using Zoom Online Software

Commissioners Present:

David Jack
Richard Panciera, Vice Chair
David King
John Spiers, Alternate
Wendy Ecker
Jim Batchelor

Commissioners Absent:

Elizabeth Armstrong, Alternate
Elton Elperin, Chair
Peter Kleiner

Staff: Valerie Birmingham, Tina McCarthy

Mr. Panciera called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mr. Panciera asked Mr. Spiers to vote for Mr. Elperin, and he agreed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – DEMOLITION

57 Chatham Street – Application for the partial demolition of the house (LJEFF LLC, applicants).
Precinct 1

Ms. Birmingham presented the case.

The applicant was represented by Attorney Robert Allen. Owner Ellen Golde was also present.

Ms. Golde stated that Stanley Meyer was a friend of her family. The home was originally built for a doctor and needed a separate entrance. She stated that she was very fond of the architect of this work and agreed that the building is a significant piece of architecture. She stated that she has lived in this home for a long time.

Mr. Allen stated that the applicant intended to seek a lift of the demolition stay.

Public Comment – None

47
48 Ms. Ecker stated that she knew this house and it is very special.
49
50 Mr. Jack clarified with Ms. Birmingham that the home was on the National Register and a
51 demolition stay would last 18 months.
52
53 Mr. King agreed with the comments made and moved to uphold the staff's initial determination
54 of significance. Mr. Jack seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
55

56
57 **41 Codman Road** – Application for the demolition of the house (Peter and Meredith Kellner).
58 **Precinct 5**

59
60 Ms. McCarthy presented the case.

61
62 Attorney Allen represented the applicant and stated that the firm of LDA is the architect for the
63 project. He agreed that the house is significant, and that stated that the goal is to bring the house
64 back.
65

66 John Day, an architect, stated that the owners want to update and restore the house.
67

68 **Public Comment**

69
70 Carissa Demore stated that it was great to hear that the owners want to preserve the house.
71 Speaking on behalf of Historic New England, she stated that they have an archive of Royal Barry
72 Will's work, which was of regional and national significance. There are 53 drawings and photos
73 in the archive for this house. Historic New England has reservations about the demo of this
74 house. She invited the architects to use the archives to inform their work.
75

76 John Day stated that they would like to use the archives, and thanked Ms. Demore.
77

78 Ms. Ecker recalled that when she went into real estate, mentioning Royal Barry Wills as architect
79 would help sell the house.
80

81 Mr. King stated that Mr. Wills changed his style through his career and was adaptable. He
82 supported finding the building significant.
83

84 Neal Glick, a member of the public, stated that he represents the trustees of the Sargent Estate.
85

86 Attorney Allen cited legal reasons for filing for full demolition, and explained that his client will
87 try to resolve and work with the commission.
88

89 Mr. Glick asked to be notified about all future hearing for this case. He had thought this was an
90 application for full demolition. He stated he was confused and favored a finding of significance.
91

92 Mr. Jack agreed with the previous comments and thanked Ms. Demore. He stated that he was
93 raised in a Royal Barry Wills house.
94
95 Mr. Panciera remarked that the dining room is so interesting and a unique feature. He thought it
96 was an addition, it makes quite a statement. It is the antithesis of every suburban house to hide
97 the garage doors.
98
99 Mr. Panciera moved to uphold the staff's initial finding of significance. Mr. Spiers seconded the
100 motion. All voted in favor.
101
102 Mr. Jack thanked Valerie Birmingham for her work with the commission.
103
104 Meeting adjourned.