

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy, Richard Remillard.

Absent: Colette Ferguson.

Associates Present: Jeremy Ball

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None - To be done at the meeting on Apr. 12th.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - There is currently a vacancy on the Commission. Bob will obtain a letter of retirement/resignation from Debbie to make that vacancy official.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None.

E. DISCUSSION/VOTE

At our last meeting on Mar. 8th, Carolyn Zern of Wood Partners, Inc. and Thomas Miner of Hawk Design presented plans for the landscaping component of the project (tentatively named Weston Woods) to build 280 apartments that is slated for 1342 West Central St. In the corner of this lot is the former Wales house, built in 1720, that will be demolished but commemorated as part of the construction project. At that meeting, Thom Miner presented two options:

A — To bring the grade at the house site down to the level of the surrounding landscape. This would address Gus Brown's concern for safety and motorists' visibility at that corner.

B — To leave the foundation of the house intact at its current height, some 3' above the surrounding landscape.

We discussed these options in detail. A motion to approve Option A passed 4-1, with the following provisions:

—That the site include a freestanding plaque to commemorate the house that stood there, with information to be provided by the Commission. (As opposed to a stone marker, a plaque, similar to the one standing at Four Corners, would allow us to show photographs and to describe the history in greater detail.)

—That the footprint of the house will include as much of the house's perimeter as possible (portions of two sides), and that it be constructed of the house's granite sills.

—That the trees and shrubs proposed for that area not be allowed to overwhelm the house site.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None.

G. OLD BUSINESS - None.

H. NEW BUSINESS (ask members) - None.

I. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

J. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None.

K. ADJOURN - Voted 5-0 to adjourn.