

HISTORICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Farrell, Chairman
Ms. Bishop, Recording Secretary
Mr. Kaufman
Mr. Papp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Zachowski

The meeting notice was posted more than twenty-four (24) hours prior to commencement of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting.
2. Discussion of applications for demolition permits and pre-clearances submitted since the last meeting.
3. Discussion of status of the Ross property application for demolition.
4. Discussion of recommendations for changes to the ordinance establishing the demolition delay actions.
5. Next meeting – Thursday, January 17, 2008.

PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Chairman Farrell.

A quorum was confirmed.

Ms. Bishop moved the approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papp and unanimously approved by the committee.

Mr. Farrell commented on the importance of letters provided by the Glass House in support of preservation of New Canaan Moderns, and specifically in support of preserving the Alice Ball house. It was the general consensus of the committee that it would be advantageous to place an article in the newspaper highlighting these letters. Mr. Farrell will contact the Advertiser regarding this suggestion.

The Committee discussed several properties for which demolition applications have been presented. These include:

28 Raymond Street
15 Selleck Place

It was the general consensus of the Committee that, without formal study of **15 Selleck Place**, it appears to be of no historical, cultural, or architectural significance: and therefore is not a likely candidate for valid objection to demolition.

In the instance of **28 Raymond Street** three (3) permits for demolition have been submitted with the Building Official: one for the main house built in 1911, one for a garage also built in 1911, and one for an additional garage built in 1937. As the application had been just received by Mr. Farrell, it was agreed by the committee that further review of the property is necessary before a determination of historical significance could be ascertained.

The Committee reviewed the status of the demolition application for the **Ross property**. It was noted that the Town and Ms. Ross continue to be involved in legal matters which need to be resolved before the demolition application can be approved.

The Committee discussed the need for changes to be made in the ordinance which encourage owners to go through the historical review process before asbestos inspections, or other damage is done to the property. Mr. Farrell passed out a list of recommendations made by the Preservation Alliance.

It was pointed out by Mr. Farrell that the application for demolition and the written ordinance are inconsistent with each other. The application requires certification that utilities have been turned off and asbestos removal completed upon application of the permit. The ordinance itself only requires public notification in newspaper and to neighbors, along with placement of a sign on the property. These discrepancies will need to be remedied. It was agreed that a special meeting should be arranged with Chris Jarboe, Mr. Platz, and Mr. Farrell.

Comments were made regarding the possibility of increasing the demolition delay period to 180 days. It was noted that the real estate community may be apposed to the increase. Mr. Farrell pointed out that ordinances in other towns and states are all different and that New Canaan's ordinance seems to be unique in offering the pre-clearance option. The Committee continued to discuss effective ways to reach out to realtors and to proactively support preservation. The possibility of a sending out a letter is one such option.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Papp and was seconded by Ms. Bishop. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Susan Bishop, Recording Secretary