

Milford Historic District No. 2, South of the Green  
Minutes of Regular Meeting and Public Hearing – Board of Education Meeting Room (Learning Center), Parsons Government Center (unapproved) – December 9, 2015

Chair Carol Molloy Smith called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Gary Becker, Elizabeth Kennard, Carol Molloy Smith, Walter Ortoleva, Arthur Paulson, Arthur Stowe

Not Present: Christopher Thomas

Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2015 Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Chair Paulson and seconded by Ms. Kennard to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2015 as presented. Motion carried with Mr. Becker abstaining as he was not present at the October 2015 meeting.

President's Report including Correspondence - deferred to later in the meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report – Mr. Ortoleva reported the balance as of December 9, 2015 was \$3,667.00 with no outstanding bills.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Paulson and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

A. Delinquent Solar Panel Applications – Chair Smith explained she has attempted to reach Mr. Griffith of the Permitting and Land Use Dept. several times but has not been successful. She was pleased to speak with his assistant who had provided her the names and addresses of the three residents applying for solar panels and reside in the Historic District No. 2. Within the past few weeks she has sent letters to those residents requesting them to apply for a COA for their solar panels as they were not initially properly permitted. In the letter she explained to them their application (COA) would be submitted retroactively.

Tree Committee Report – no report

New Business

A. Report on District Tree removal and replacement activities to include Reed Street Meeting – Ms. Kennard provided a report regarding tree removal on Reed Street. She explained in the early fall, three trees on Reed Street were marked with a white "x" signifying they would be taken down. She added despite the agreement that this Commission was to be notified in advance of any such action, there had been no notification. Ms. Kennard stated she had numerous conversations with Mr. Saley (Public Works Director) followed by a meeting at which time she and Mr. Paulson met with Mr. Saley and explained the process for tree removal which had been previously established. Also at that meeting they discussed sidewalk vs. trees and what those options would be (i.e. sidewalk on one side as opposed to both sides of the street).

Ms. Kennard stated the resident at 15 Reed Street, one of the homes initially identified to have a tree removed, wanted the tree on their property taken down and since that meeting in the early fall that tree has been taken down.

Ms. Kennard stated she felt after the meeting with Mr. Saley it was safe to assume he agreed to the agreement of tree removal moving forward.

Ms. Kennard explained there is a resident who has a tree whose roots are causing the sidewalk to heave and eventually posing a safety issue. It was explained if someone should fall and be injured due to a sidewalk heave such as that, the liability would be solely on the city.

Ms. Kennard explained that the residents on 9 and 15 Reed Street had agreed with the tree removal of the trees marked by Mr. Saley and as of this date the only tree removed is the one on 15 Reed Street.

Further she explained at this time there is a red card posted on the trees on the snow shelf at 9 and 11 Reed Street and that is the correct process of notification. As well there is still one house in the district that had been initially marked with an "x" but has not been tagged with a red card to date.

Chair Smith expressed her concern about the fact that the Historic District is concerned with maintaining some of the beautiful trees in the area. When the matter was of removing trees in the area was discussed, she was told the city would remove the old trees and provide the homeowner with a tree bagged but would not plant the tree and that responsibility would be up to the property owner.

It was also noted that trees can no longer be planted on the snow shelf and the city does not want to accept the responsibility of planting trees on the other side of the sidewalk (the taxpayer's property.)

Ms. Kennard assured members she will continue to stay on top of this matter within the district and report any further actions.

Vice Chair Paulson added this Commission should be notified in advance of any plans for tree removal as previously stated by the Mayor and the Public Works Director.

It was agreed that the appropriate line of communication has been established with city staff informing this Commission regarding tree removal.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Becker and Mr. Ortoleva moved to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido