

LaMott Historic District, Township of Cheltenham
Board of Historical Architectural Review
Meeting Minutes of
December 7, 2009

Issue Date: December 8, 2009

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Location: 8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, 1st Floor Board Room

Present: Mr. Reynold Greenberg, Chairperson
Ms. Patricia Gerrity, Member
Mr. Timothy Hinchcliff, Member
Ms. Emma Trusty, Member
Mr. David Lynch, Member, Director of Engineering, Zoning and Inspections
Mr. Carmen Reitano, Assistant to the Director of Engineering, Zoning and Inspections
Ms. Christine Miller Cruiss, BHAR Consultant

Absent: Ms. Darlene Melton, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Zilan Munas-Bass, Member
Ms. Genevieve Christopher, Member

1. Meeting Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Mr. Greenberg.

2. Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hinchcliff made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2009 BHAR meetings. Mr. Lynch seconded this motion and all voted in favor to accept the minutes.

3. Applications

Application L-861
Mr. Farrokh Force and Mr. Farhad Force
1718 Keenan Street

The Applicants seek a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the installation of vinyl siding, replacement windows, and the removal and reconstruction of the front porch. The work has already been completed, so this is a retroactive approval.

Mr. Lynch opened the discussion by summarizing the application. The property owner's contractor obtained a permit for replacing the vinyl siding on the house. Through a clerical error, the permit was issued without a COA from the BHAR. The contractor removed the enclosed porch because they perceived that it was in danger of imminent collapse, but made no

effort to contact Building and Zoning. No permit was obtained for removing the porch or reconstructing the new, open porch. No permit was obtained and no COA was obtained for other exterior work—including, but not limited to—window and door replacements.

Joyce Werkman presented photographs of the properties along Keenan Street, including an image of 1718 Keenan Street prior to the removal of the porch. The porch on 1718 Keenan Street retained the Doric Columns, but was infilled with Colonial Revival windows, creating an enclosed porch.

Mr. Lynch noted that this house represents one of the six original homes commonly believed to have been built from timbers salvaged from Camp William Penn and that this was one of the lots purchased by Keenan and built as a speculative property.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to table a vote on the COA for 1718 Keenan Street until next month. He also noted that he wanted the BHAR to have the Consultant research the original appearance of the Keenan Street houses and to contact Michel Lefevre from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for a clear direction in how to properly address the period of restoration for the Keenan Street houses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hichcliff. All voted in favor.

4. New Business

New Business Item #1

Mr. Reitano noted that in the past, Darlene Melton had voiced concern because properties sold by a bank or at a sheriff's sale did not have the disclosure to the new property owner that the house was within a historic district. Mr. Reitano noted that this information was now to be included as a line in the new Pennsylvania Agreement of Sale form that would be released in 2010.

New Business Item #2

Mr. Greenberg noted that the Historical Commission's annual holiday party is planned for December 10, 2009 at the Wall House at 8 p.m. All were invited to attend.

5. Old Business

Old Business Item #1

Fredericka Waugh inquired as to whether a building permit or COA application had been applied for or issued for the subdivided lot at 7325 Keenan Street. Mr. Lynch indicated that no applications had been filed for the property.

Old Business Item #2

Diane Williams, owner of the property at 1812 Beech Avenue, in LaMott, was present at the meeting. She stated that she had taken part in a grant for homeowners in LaMott. She noted that she did not want an answer from the BHAR, she wanted to give the BHAR some information because they were tangentially involved in the grant program. Ms. Williams stated that she had called the office of State Senator Leanna Washington. The representative from Senator Washington's office told Ms. Williams that they could not correspond because Ms. Williams had a lawyer. Ms. Williams stated that she did not have a lawyer. However, Ms. Williams also stated that she has filed lawsuits with the Township, the contractor and all professional

consultants involved with her project. Mr. Lynch stated that because it was a pending lawsuit, the conversation should end. Ms. Williams reiterated that she had no attorney and was representing herself in the lawsuits.

Old Business Item #3

Joyce Werkman asked as to the status of the signage for the district. Mr. Reitano said that it was the same as last month and that they are still waiting on information from Peter Wieck from the Wyncote BHAR.

6. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Gerrity, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

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