

Meeting Date: October 25, 2021

In Attendance: Maria Boyes (Chair), Jacqueline Brevard (Vice-Chair), Kelly Kessler, Linda Habgood (TC), Matthew Ceberio (PB), Jenny Jaruzelski, Barton Ross (HPO), Mary Anne Healy-Rodriguez (A1), Kathryn Reed (A2), Tom Jardim (HPC Attorney), Katie Spikes, Carol Tener (Town Historian), Robert Wendel, Thomas Jardim, Attorney.

Absent: Greg Blasi, Alison Carey,

The meeting minutes from September 27, 2021, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chair Boyes, seconded by Ms. Brevard. All members were in favor. The minutes were approved by the Commission.

New Business:

Brian & Kathryn Reed, 242 Kimball Avenue.

Applicant is seeking approval of their application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission to allow for the construction of a new two-car garage to replace a previous two-car garage which was destroyed by storm.

Chair Boyes introduced the application for Mr. & Mrs. Reed and Architect, Ms. Lazar. Ms. Lazar shared her screen drawings and presentation to the HPC members. Ms. Lazar stated that this application had previously been approved for a 3-car garage however after the Reeds started to receive bids and further review their plans they decided to go with a smaller version of the garage and are now proposing to construct a 2-car garage. This garage will look like a carriage house. It is 500 square feet and no variances are needed. The garage will be located 5' off of the side setback line and the rear of the garage will be on the easement. The roof grade will be 15' from grade to ridge. There is no height variance needed. The garage will match the house in design, colors, doors, windows, roof, and all materials. There will be 1 large door however it will appear to be 2 doors. It is proportionate and appropriately matches the style of the existing home.

Chair Boyes asks Commission members if they have any questions of Ms. Lazar.

Chair Boyes stated that Mr. & Mrs. Reed had already met with the HPC design committee and they were pleased with this plan and felt it was appropriate for the house.

Ms. Tener stated that she thought this plan looked great and was a great improvement to the house.

Ms. Brevard approved of this proposed plan.

Ms. Jaruzelski stated that this garage was beautiful.

Chair Boyes stated that the single door looks like double doors, which was appropriate and that the overall design complements the home. The Reeds responded that the door allows easy accessibility into the garage while giving it character and a historic appearance.

Ms. Healy stated that she is looking forward to seeing the completed plans as the garage looks beautiful.

Chair Boyes opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. & Mrs. Volini, neighbors at 230 Kimball Avenue, stated that they are happy with the plan and support the application.

Mr. Nobile, neighbor at 248 Kimball Avenue, stated that he was in full support of the project. He would view the new garage from his deck and approves of the plan.



Ms. Kessler stated that this is a wonderful plan. She has seen the drawings and it truly fits with the property. She likes the 2-car garage much better than the original 3-car garage plan. This will be a huge improvement and fits in so much better. This plan is a home run! Ms. Lazar has done a fabulous job with this design.

Ms. Habgood stated that she approved of this plan. This garage looks beautiful.

The meeting was closed to the public.

Chair Boyes asked for a motion to approve the 2-car garage, seconded by Ms. Jaruzelski. The vote was unanimous in favor of the project.

Nomination of Proposed Historic Designation: Train Kiosk

The historic Train Station kiosk, located on the South Avenue side of the NJ Transit train tracks, is owned by the Town of Westfield and has recently been restored with architectural integrity.

Chair Boyes gave a brief summary of this proposed train kiosk designation on behalf of Mr. Wendel's historic research.

Built in 1893, this diminutive structure is a physical remembrance of a time when newspapers controlled the flow of information throughout the United States and the railroad controlled the country's mobility. With the end of the Civil War, and the completion of the trans-continental railroad in 1869, Congress legislated those railroads had to transport newspapers at a second-class bulk rate at a specialized low rate of 1 cent per pound for any distance between news agencies. The American Newspaper Company utilized the subsidy to expand their distribution network across the continent and individual newsstands were created across the country at rail stations as the primary source of delivering news to the American public. The Union News Company was the subsidiary in the Northeast and responsible for leveraging these news outlets at each of the major train stations in the form of specifically constructed newsstands. This structure may possibly be the last surviving in the country of wooden construction and represents a link to Westfield's past and a link to the American Newspaper conglomeration that served news to millions of Americans across the country. This is an irreplaceable historic gem.

Councilwoman Mackey presented the history of the renovation by the Town concluding that the restoration will use historic colors to replicate the original kiosk. She stated a survey was given to commuters and they were asked what services they would like to see offered once completed. The survey resulted in the commuters wanting a coffee kiosk as well as breakfast foods and possibly some other innovative uses.

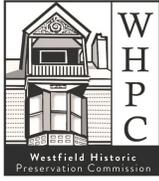
Ms. Kessler and Ms. Jaruzelski both stated that they remembered the kiosk having grown up in town and are happy to see it designated.

Chair Boyes stated that she is very pleased with the fact that Mr. Wendel uncovered this history. It is a Westfield landmark and it will be very exciting for Westfielders to see it restored and operational.

Ms. Healy stated that she too was pleased and very excited to learn of the history of this train kiosk.

Ms. Tener agreed.

Chair Boyes asked for a motion to vote on the nomination of the designation of the train kiosk, which was seconded by Ms. Kessler. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination.



Historic Preservation Officer Overview

Mr. Ross stated that the Certified Local Government application is completed and ready to be mailed. He is confident that the application will be well received, and Westfield will be given the recognition it deserves. The packet will be both emailed and physically mailed to the state this week.

Mr. Ross is also working on two reports, one for 112 Ferris Place and the other for 23 Stoneleigh Park. Both of these reports should be completed and ready for a vote for the November meeting.

Old Business

Chair Boyes discussed the Devlin Awards, which were held in person on Oct. 18. She stated that the event was a huge success and thanked the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Jaruzelski and her awards team: Ms. Kessler, Ms. Spikes and Ms. Carey. The recipients, both homeowners and architects in attendance, enjoyed the presentation and were excited to see their projects recognized.

Ms. Jaruzelski gave an overview of the evening and agreed that it was very successful, thanking the members of the Award Committee.

Chair Boyes asked the Commission if there were any more updates. There were none.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chair Boyes and seconded by Ms. Brevard.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Burd
Board Secretary