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CITY OF NEWTON

Planning and Development Board

08/10/2023

To: Mr. Doug Cornelius, Chair
Newton Historical Commission
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Subject: Planning & Development Board Recommendation on the Proposed
Landmark Designation for 19 Highland Ave.

CC: Honorable Newton City Councilors
Mollie Hutchings, Chief Preservation Planner
Planning & Development Board

Dear Mr. Cornelius,

The Planning and Development Board is authorized under Newton's Landmark Ordinance (Sec 22-64 (d)) to make recommendations to the Newton Historical Commission regarding properties that have been nominated for landmark designation. The role of the Board in making such a recommendation is to evaluate "the relationship of the proposed designation to the City's adopted policies and plans and the effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area." In addition, the Board "shall also make recommendations regarding any other planning considerations relevant to the proposed designation."

At its regular monthly meeting held on Monday, August 8th the Planning & Development Board reviewed the nomination materials and property owner's response as well as a summary staff memorandum prepared by Chief Preservation Planner Hutchings. In addition, several members of the Board visited the property to understand the building and surrounding context.

Chair Brown moved, seconded by Ms. Dain, the following: The Planning & Development Board recommends that the Newton Historical Commission landmark the property at 19 Highland Ave. However, the site is proposed to be included in the Village Center Overlay District and the Board advises that the landmark designation retain flexibility to allow appropriate redevelopment or reuse the parish house structure and adjacent portions of the lot for residential or commercial purposes while preserving the church. The motion was approved 6-0-1 (Director Heath abstaining). Two members of the Planning and Development Board, while supporting the overall nomination and motion did wish to go on record as supporting the preservation of the parish house structure.

Sincerely,
Kelley Brown
Kelley Brown, Chair