

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Baker, Danberg, Johnson, Hess-Mahan, Lappin, and Sangiolo. Absent: Ald. Lennon

City staff: Michael Baseman (Assistant City Solicitor), Linda Finucane (Chief Committee Clerk), Juris Alksnitis (Chief Zoning Code Official), Michael Kruse (Director of Planning & Development)

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#378-04      ROBERT L. REIMER, 24 Pickwick Road, Waban, re-appointed as a FENCE VIEWER for a term of office which will expire on January 31, 2007 (60-day BOA action 11/19).

ACTION:      NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

NOTE: This item was originally held by the Committee because of curiosity about the post of Fence Viewer. At the request of the Committee, the Mayor resubmitted the nomination as #378-04(2). Therefore, this item could be voted no action necessary.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#1-05      NANCY GRISSOM, 7 Orris Street, Auburndale, re-appointed as an Alternate member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:      APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Ms. Grissom fills one of the realtor seats on the Newton Historic Commission and in turn represents the Commission on the District Commission. She has found the burden of service light and the atmosphere on the Commission helpful and friendly to petitioners.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#2-05      CAROL WARNER, 26 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring on January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:      APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Ms. Warner was not present, but her resume and the testimony of her fellow members who were present and Alderman Johnson spoke to her historic knowledge and her commitment to the work of the Commission. The Committee voted 7-0 to confirm her re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#3-05        MARK CHUDY, 34 Prescott Street, Newtonville, re-appointed as an Alternate member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:     APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Chudy is an Electrical Engineer who also serves as an Aldermanic appointee on the Design Review Committee. He fills one of the Alternate Resident slots on the Commission. The workload of the Commission has been light and the demeanor of the Commission has been to offer technical assistance to help applicants achieve their purposes in a historically correct but inexpensive manner. The Committee voted 7-0 to approve his re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#4-05        JIM GROSS, 80 Highland Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed as an Alternate member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:     APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Gross is an Attorney with an undergraduate degree in history. He presented his background and experience in serving on the Commission. The Committee thanked him for his willingness to serve and voted 7-0 to approve his re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#5-05        JOHN MARTIN, 12 Simpson Terrace, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:     APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Martin is an architect who had moved up from the Alternate Architect slot on the Newtonville Historic District Commission. Although he was not present, his resume and Alderman Johnson's recommendation persuaded the Committee to vote 7-0 to approve his re-appointment, this time to a full term.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#6-05        DAVID GALLER, 52 Page Road, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of both the NEWTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION and the NEWTON UPPER FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for concurrent terms of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION:     APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Although Mr. Galler was not present, he was well known to members of the Committee as an active member of both Commissions. On the NUFHDC, he serves as a Representative of the Historic Commission. Nevertheless, he is able to offer his architectural expertise to petitions before the district Commission in addition to the architect member of the District Commission. Based on observation of his active role on both Committees and his impressive resume, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve his re-appointments to both Committees.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#7-05 WILLIAM ROESNER, 34 Hancock Avenue, Newton Centre, re-appointed as a member of both the NEWTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION and the CHESTNUT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for concurrent terms of office expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Although Mr. Roesner was not present, Committee members remembered him from previous appearances before the Committee. His resume demonstrated his professional qualifications to serve on both Committees. Alderman Baker and the CHHDC Chair both vouched for his diligence on the Chestnut Hill Commission. (Several Committee members have seen him serve on the Newton Historic Commission.) Based on this wealth of information, the Committee voted 7-0 to confirm his re-appointments.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#8-05 LEONARD SHERMAN, 181 Windsor Road, Waban, re-appointed an Alternate member of the NEWTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION for a term expiring January 1, 2008 (60 days 3/4/05).

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Sherman is a realtor who replaced Ms. Grissom as alternate realtor on the Historic Commission when she moved up to regular member last year. He described the balance that the Commission tried to strike between the rights of property owners and the rights of other owners to be protected from inappropriate development. After briefly reviewing his resume and thanking him for his past and future willingness to serve, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve his appointment to a full term on the Commission.

#10-5 PRESIDENT BAKER recommending discussion and possible recommendations about amendments to historic district state law proposed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, including suggested enhancement to facilitate local review and effective compliance.

ACTION: HELD 7-0

NOTE; Mr. Wyman and Alderman Baker presented the draft revision of the Enabling Act for Historic Districts, Chapter 40C. Alderman Yates pointed out several references to state agencies by outdated names and stated that the preference for multiple historic district commissions to work together to study new possible districts was impractical and should be deleted. It was agreed that an existing Historic Commission might well be the first choice. Alderman Yates also suggested that the nomination process for the architect, realtor and lawyer be made as flexible as possible and the Planning Board be removed from the review of a proposed new district. Some of the changed wording might imperil existing arrangements in which staff and Chair work together to screen out applications that don't need to go before the full Commission. The Committee agreed that maximum flexibility should be retained to help property owners avoid the inconvenience of unnecessary attendance at Committee meetings. No comments from other district commission members were available, and the filing status of the draft before the

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 10, 2005

Page 4

General Court was unknown, so the Committee voted 7-0 to hold the item until more information and comments were available.

The Committee then discussed scheduling of items for future meetings. The meeting on January 24 will start at 8:00 o'clock to allow members to attend part of the Green Decade Coalition's Environmental Panel that night. Chief Administrative Officer Michael Rourke and Search Committee member Lappin will then update the Committee on the status of the search for a new Inspectional Services Commissioner.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Yates, Chairman