

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Lappin, Johnson, Lennon, and Sangiolo

Absent: Ald. Baker and Mansfield; Ald. Gentile attended Finance Committee.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#173-03(2) STEVEN FLYNN, 992 Chestnut Street, Newton Upper Falls, appointed as a regular member of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION to replace Paul O'Shaughnessy as the resident appointee whose term expires July 31, 2004. Mr. Flynn is currently an Alternate member of the Commission. (60-day Board action 11/1/03.)

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0 (SANGIOLO NOT VOTING)

NOTE: Mr. Flynn was not invited in because he had been before the Committee in April for his appointment as Alternate Member. He is proposed to replace resident Paul O'Shaughnessy who has moved to Lexington. Mr. Flynn is a Brookline native who has been interested in historic preservation for several years. Both as a district resident and as an Alternate to the Commission, he has attended several meetings of the Upper Falls Historic District over the past year. He has restored historic structures in Brookline, Brighton, and Cambridge. As the owner of a "Liberty Bronze" (bright orange) house in the district, he is well aware that the district does not regulate color. He agrees that current residents and owners need clear information about the district, particularly since no general information has gone out for nearly twenty years. The Committee voted 5-0 to confirm his appointment as a Resident Member of the Commission.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#231-03(2) LAURIE M. MALCOM, 51 Pettee Street, Newton Upper Falls, appointed as an ALTERNATE member of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring July 1, 2006 (60-days 10/10/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Ms. Malcom was an Environmental Health Inspector for the Newton Health Department from 1994 to 2000. During this period, she was an active member of the Advisory Council of Public Health in Brookline where she lived. Since becoming an insurance broker and moving to Newton, she has become interested in participating in the city. Her fellow Falls Ridge resident Paul O'Shaughnessy recruited her for the position of Alternate Resident on the Commission. She is somewhat familiar with the

Commission because some improvements to her building had gone through Commission review. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve her appointment.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#235-03(2) RUSTY THOMPSON, 56 Cynthia Road, WARD 8, appointed as a member of the URBAN DESIGN AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION for a term of office expiring May 31, 2006 (60-days 10/10/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Ms. Thompson explained her history of civic involvement in the city including her work on Newton Pride. She was recruited for the Commission by Chair Richard Griffin and looks forward to a broadened scope of work beyond the current sign focus. She was open to Alderman Yates' request that the Commission review the site of the Waban Library. The Committee voted 5-0 to confirm her appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#265-03(2) ALLEN JOHNSON, 32 Ware Road, Auburndale, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on July 31, 2006 (60 days 10/10/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Johnson was previously before the Committee in 2000 for his appointment to the Newton Historic Commission. In 2002, he was appointed as a Historical Commission member of the Newtonville Historic District Commission. Mr. Johnson has over 14 years of professional experience in historic preservation and related fields. He was Director of Architectural Review for the Massachusetts Historic Commission and Director of Technical Services for the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and has participated in dozens, if not hundreds, of historic preservation projects in the public and private sector. The city will try to make his book "How to Care for Your Old House" available to Newton residents. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve his re-appointment to the Historical Commission.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#366-03 JOHN MARTIN, 12 Simpson Terrace, Newtonville, appointed as a regular member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2005; Mr. Martin replaces Patricia Reiter (60-day Board action 11/1/03).

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: Since Mr. Martin was not present and no one was familiar with him, the Committee voted to hold his appointment.

CLERK'S NOTE: Mr. Martin came before the Committee on February 24, 2003 to be s appointed as an Alternate Member of the newly formed Newtonville Historic

District Commission. He is now being appointed as a regular member. The excerpt from the February 24th report is attached.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#295-03 WILLIAM STEIN, 103 Levbert Road, Newton Centre, appointed as an ASSOCIATE member of the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS to fill the un-expired term of the late Maurice Reidy; said term of office will expire on September 30, 2004 (60-day Board action 9/12/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Stein is being appointed to fill out the remainder of the term of Maurice Reidy who served more than fifty years on the ZBA. He is a graduate of the Newton Public Schools and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is familiar with the requirement that “hardships” for ZBA waivers must be based on unique physical characteristics of lots and of the balancing of competing interests that must be carried out in the other ZBA duties. The Committee thanked him for his willingness to serve and approved his appointment 5-0.

The Committee agreed to docket a memorial resolution for Mr. Reidy, who passed away last year.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#296-03 DAVID BANASH, 12 Warwick Road, West Newton, re-appointed as a member of the PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD for a term expiring February 1, 2008 (60-day Board action 9/12/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Banash is well known to the Committee as an active member of the Planning Board. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve his re-appointment.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#333-03 CLARK TURNER, 264 River Street, West Newton, appointed as an ALTERNATE member to the PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD for a term expiring February 1, 2008 (60 days 10/10/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Turner is a lifelong resident of the city with extensive construction experience. He is a Contracts Document Coordinator for the MBTA and previously owned his own construction company. He is the past president of CAN-DO, where he remains on the Board, and is active in the Myrtle Baptist Church, as well as the nephew of former Alderman Matthew Jefferson. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve his appointment as an alternate Planning Board member.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#334-03 BENJAMIN ARNHOLD-WEISBUCH, 16 Richardson Street, Newton Corner, appointed as a member of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION for a term expiring July 7, 2006 (60 days 10/10/03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Arnold-Weisbuch is an attorney well known to Alderman Lennon. He expressed concern about the feasibility of some of the EDC activities like parking improvements in Newton Centre. The Committee urged him to have the EDC stay in close touch with the Alderman. Alderman Yates urged him to have the EDC follow up on the items of his sent to the EDC for their input. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve his appointment.

#39-03 ALD. LIPOF, LIPSITT & PARKER requesting discussion of possible City acquisition of "Kessler Woods" property owned by NSTAR.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0

NOTE: Since this item is no longer necessary, the Committee voted No Action Necessary.

All other items were held without discussion and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ald. Brian Yates, Chairman