

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 **216-16**Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

James Freas Acting Director

ZONING REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Date: June 6, 2016

To: John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services

From: Jane Santosuosso, Chief Zoning Code Official

Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner for Current Planning

Cc: Stephen Hamilton, architect

Nancy Bolanis, owner

James Freas, Acting Director of Planning and Development

Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor

RE: Request to extend a nonconforming two-family use in a SR2 zoning district and to further

increase already nonconforming FAR

Applicant: Stephen Hamilton			
Site: 17-19 Pulsifer Street	SBL: 22018 0003		
Zoning: SR2	Lot Area: 7,964 square feet		
Current use: Two-family dwelling	Proposed use: No change		

BACKGROUND:

The property at 17-19 Pulsifer Street consists of a 7,964 square foot lot improved with a two-family dwelling constructed in 1877 in the Single Residence 2 zoning district. The applicant proposes to add rear sunrooms to the first and second floors, as well as an exterior stair from the third floor to grade. A one-car detached garage structure is proposed at the rear of the property. Also, the applicant proposes to construct a new front porch to replace what exists and restore to the original condition. Two new surface parking stalls are proposed at the front of the property. Two-family dwellings are not allowed by right in the district. A special permit is required to further extend the nonconforming two-family use in the Single Residence 2 zoning district.

The following review is based on plans and materials submitted to date as noted below.

- Zoning Review Application, prepared by Stephen Hamilton, architect, dated 1/7/2016, revised 5/2/2016
- FAR Worksheet, submitted 5/2/2016
- Plan of Land, prepared by Everett M. Brooks Co., dated 6/11/2015
- Proposed Conditions, prepared by Everett M. Brooks Co., dated 12/23/2015

• Architectural Plans, signed and stamped by Stephen Hamilton, architect, dated 7/2/2016, revised 7/27/2015, 12/4/2015, 1/7/2016

ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS:

- 1. The applicant proposes to construct two rear sunroom additions, as well as a front porch and detached garage structure to the existing nonconforming two-family dwelling. A two-family dwelling is not allowed in the SR2 zoning district, therefore alterations and additions to the structure require a special permit pursuant to Sections 3.4.1 and 7.8.2.C.2.
- 2. The maximum allowable FAR for the property is .40. The applicant proposes additions to the dwelling totaling 336 square feet, as well as a new detached garage with 264 square feet for a total of an additional 600 square feet. The additions increase the already nonconforming FAR from .51 to .58, requiring a special permit pursuant to Sections 3.1.9.A.2 and 7.8.2.C.2.
- 3. The addition of the detached garage structure produces a lot coverage of 31.3%, which exceeds the maximum of 30% allowed by Section 3.1.3. However, Section 1.5.2.D.2 state that the lot coverage requirements of 3.1.3 shall not apply to the construction of a garage accessory to a single or two family structure that was in existence on December 27, 1922. Without the additional lot coverage of the proposed garage, the lot coverage is 27.9%, which complies.

SR2 Zone	Required	Existing	Proposed	
Lot Size	10,000 square feet	7,694 square feet	No change	
Setbacks				
Front	25 feet	34.6 feet	27.8 feet	
• Side	7.5 feet	8.7 feet	No change	
• Rear	15 feet	29.5 feet	17.5 feet	
Building Height	36 feet	37.9 feet	No change	
Max Number of Stories	2.5	3	No change	
Max Lot Coverage	30%	23.6%	27.9% (31.3% with proposed garage)	
Min Open Space	50%	66%	51%	
FAR	.40	.51	.58	

1. See "Zoning Relief Summary" below:

Zoning Relief Required				
Ordinance		Action Required		
§3.4.1	To increase a nonconforming two-family residential use	S.P. per §7.3.3		
§7.8.2.C.2	in a Single Residence 2 zoning district			
§3.1.9.A.2	To further increase already nonconforming FAR	S.P. per §7.3.3		
§7.8.2.C.2				