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**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS  
NEWTON UPPER FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**DATE:** December 8, 2022

**PLACE/TIME:** Fully Remote  
7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDING:** Jeff Riklin, Chair  
Laurie Malcom, Member  
Judy Neville, Member  
Daphne Romanoff, Member  
Barbara Kurze, Staff

**ABSENT:** Scott Aquilina, Member  
Paul Snyder, Member  
John Wyman, Alternate

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Jeff Riklin presiding as Chair. Voting permanent members were L. Malcom, J. Neville, and D. Romanoff. B. Kurze acted as recording secretary and the meeting was recorded on Zoom.

**207-209 Elliot Street – Working Session**

Mark Logue and Jim Egan presented an application to replace an existing wall and patio at the back of the house. The wall was failing to retain dirt which was piling up at the back of the house and creating moisture issues. Excavation work was started without getting approvals and permits and sections of the wall had been removed. They proposed replacing the stone wall with a taller Techo-Bloc wall – approximately five feet high; and replacing the patio with a Techo-Bloc product. The applicants asked if veneer would be appropriate for the wall and what kinds of pavers would be appropriate for the patio. Steps would also be added.

**Materials Reviewed:**

Photos

Commission members agreed that the new wall should be made of dry stack local fieldstone like the existing wall at the back of the property. The front wall was more recent and not appropriate. J. Neville commented that historic stone walls were located all over the district and were an important feature. J. Riklin said the drainage pipe needed to be a dark color to blend in with the stone; white PVC was not acceptable. Bluestone,

brick, or pavers were options for the patio. Commissioners recommended that the owner present several options for the patio. If he wanted to include an option for the Techo-Bloc patio product, then he would need to submit a sample. In addition to the site plan, the commission required a front on view and a cross-section for the wall and a top down and cross-section for the patio. Staff advised that the deadline to submit a complete application for review at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Administrative discussion**

Staff advised that Jay Walter had resigned after over 10 years of service on the commission. The Mayor's Office was looking for potential new members.

The September 2022 minutes were approved.

Staff advised that starting January 2023, the City of Newton would require a new process for accessing the application materials. Instead of a compiled pdf file with all the applications, the materials would be accessed via the individual online NewGov application submissions. The expectation was that it would take several rounds of meeting applications to work out the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.