

Approved 6/7/12

Minutes of the Cambridge Historical Commission

April 13, 2012 – 153 Brattle Street - 8:30 A.M.

Members present: William B. King; *Chair*; Bruce Irving, *Vice Chair*; M. Wyllis Bibbins, Robert Crocker, Chandra Harrington, Jo M. Solet, *Members*; Joseph Ferrara, *Alternate*

Members absent: SharyPage Berg, Susannah Barton Tobin, *Alternates*

Staff present: Sarah Burks, Charles Sullivan

Public present: see attached

Chair William King called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M.

Case 2838 (continued): 153 Brattle St., by Tom & Jeanne Hagerty. Demo garage; construct new garage at rear; extend driveway; alter retaining walls at side yard; path and paving details; relocate bench.

Mr. King explained that the meeting was called so the Commission could view site conditions and ask questions about the proposal. No votes would be taken until the hearing resumed on May 3.

Mr. Sullivan described the history of the existing garage, allowed with a temporary Certificate of Hardship (COH) and allowed to remain for subsequent owners with another temporary COH.

Guy Grassi of Grassi Design had staked out the proposed garage and put up poles and tapes to indicate the massing. The new driveway would be as narrow as possible (10-11'). The ailing yellowwood in the backyard and a tree behind the garage would be removed. New ornamentals would be planted.

The Commission walked around the block on Appleton, Brewster, and Riedesel Avenue to understand the appearance of the proposed garage from public ways.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out the 1½-story garage that had been constructed at 157 Brattle Street (facing Appleton) with a Certificate of Appropriateness. Flat-roofed garages were generally not appropriate in the district.

Mr. Grassi told Dr. Solet the garage would be 26' from the rear property line and 15' from the west line. All the plant material on the property (behind the steel fence along the rear property line) would remain. He told Mr. Irving that the Norway maple would not be removed.

The Commission entered the property and viewed the site plan and the mock up. Mr. Grassi noted the proposed location of the driveway. Ten to twelve feet of the retaining wall would remain, then the wall would turn 90° and extend along the new driveway, truncating the terrace.

John Grove, the landscape architect, displayed a rendering of the proposed conditions. He told Mr. Crocker that the wall adjoining the west fence would be removed. The new wall would have different stone.

John Gilmore of 47 Reservoir St. asked about parking. Mr. Grassi noted the location of the pavement.

Mr. King reviewed the purpose of the site visit. The members had seen the views from public ways and had been able to ask questions. He thanked the proponents for preparing the mock up.

Anne Chasin of 2 Appleton Street commented that keeping the sidewalk gate closed and using a mechanical opener would be a huge improvement over the view of the current garage.

Mr. Irving moved to adjourn. Mr. Crocker seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:14 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Burks
Preservation Planner

**Members of the Public
Who Signed Attendance Sheet 4/13/12**

Annette Lamond, 7 Riedesel Ave
Guy Grassi, 46 Waltham St., Boston 02118
John Grove, 741 Mt. Auburn St.
Tom Hagerty, 153 Brattle St.
Laura Chasin, 2 Appleton St.
Meg Koerner, 121 Brattle St.
Dick Chasin, 2 Appleton St.
Jeanne Hagerty, 153 Brattle St.
John Gilmore, 47 Reservoir St.
Ann Kania, 175 Brattle St.
Elizabeth Gilmore, 47 Reservoir St.
Carl Sapers, 26 Bradbury St., unit C

Town is Cambridge unless otherwise indicated.