

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

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The Central Business Architecture Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Jan 14, 2020

City of Northampton Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, MA

	Chair, Aelan Tierney	
R	Vice Chair, Joe Blumenthal	
R	Pauline Fogel	
R	Bob Walker	
	Bridget Goggins	
	Melissa Frydlo	

STAFF

	Planning Director, Wayne Feiden	
R	Senior Planner, Carolyn Misch	

6:30 PM Joe Blumenthal opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

6:30 PM Joe Blumenthal opened the permit for demolition and reconstruction of 23 townhouse units.

Charles Roberts, Kuhn Riddle Architects representing the applicant, presented the plans noting they were asking for approval of two options for the unit fronting Hawley Street. Roberts described setbacks and architectural elements.

Pauline Fogel asked if there was any consideration to saving the rectory and incorporating this into the plan.

Andrew Crystal, O'Connell Development Group, noted that the location of the rectory in the middle of the site made it impossible to incorporate into the site.

Bob Walker asked for confirmation about the buildings to be demolished.

Staff described the committees with jurisdiction to review demolition.

Joe Blumenthal asked about upper floor windows.

Charles Roberts described the interior layout and garage location with stair access which was driving the location and size of the windows.

Bob Walker noted that there seems to be a blend of styles between contemporary and traditional and questioned what the goal was.



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Roberts noted that they were not trying to mimic surrounding architecture but to pull out some features while creating maximum lighting for interior spaces.

Pauline Fogel asked by the heights that were of concern in the letter submitted by Maria Tymoscko.

The Committee discussed the heights and parking.

Andrew Crystal clarified that the design was based on maintaining characteristics of the residential portion of the block instead of the massing and design of the commercial buildings in the block.

Jim Nash, Ward 3 City Councilor, reiterated concerns he had heard from his constituents.

Joe Blumenthal noted that the building does not front on Main Street so the window proportions could be treated differently.

Upon motion by Bob Walker and second by Pauline Fogel the Board voted unanimously to close the hearing.

Upon motion by BW and second Pauline Fogel, the Committee voted 2-1 (Fogel voted against) to approve the modifications.

7:40 PM Adjourn