Town of Groton

**173 Main Street**

**Groton, MA 01450**

**Historic Districts Commission**

**Match 19th, 2024**

**7:30 pm**

**First Floor Meeting Room**

**Members Present:** Brian Cartier, Lisa Hicks, Jennifer Rand, Jennifer Moore

**Others Present**: Robert Olsen, Lou and Joan Berube

**Administrative Assistant**: Amanda Urmann

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 pm by Member Moore.**

**50 Hollis Street Public Hearing:**

Member Moore read aloud the public notice:

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40C, the Groton Historic Districts Commission (GHDC) will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:30 pm at The Groton Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450. This meeting will be held to consider the application submitted by Robert Olsen, seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for 50 Hollis Street, Assessors Map 112-114 to create a parking space by removing part of the fence. Copies of the application and supporting materials are available for review by contacting the GHDC via the Land Use Dept, 2nd floor of the Town Hall.

Robert Olsen was present to explain the situation at his property. Mr. Olsen explained that when he bought the house from the Friot’s, there was one parking space allotted to him, which was designated as the garage and the Friot’s had two parking spots in their garage, plus there were two spots out in front that weren’t really designated to anyone, but were on their side of the driveway. Mr. Olsen proceeded to explain that this house is considered a condo, which means the driveway is shared and because of this, no one parks in the driveway. When new tenants were moving in, there was an agreement on parking arrangements while things were being moved in and out of the house. Once things were settled, the neighbor took back their parking spots and left the tenants to one parking spot for two vehicles (a Jeep and a large truck). So, while the Jeep was able to fit in the garage, that left the truck without a spot so he had to create another location for that truck and what is there now is the solution that was made.

There was lengthy discussion and deliberation on what else could be done in regards to the parking dilemma, since the tenants need two parking spots. Eventually, it was determined that the best option would be to remove the trellis and create a parking spot in front of the house and off to the side and bump out the necessary fencing to create a spot for the truck so that it can park perpendicular to the house. The fence that was removed should be returned to its original state. The timeline in which this should be completed is 2-3 months, and in the meantime, a site visit with Member Cartier should be performed and once everything is determined, this should come back before the Board so that it can be voted on officially. This public hearing will be continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**112 Farmers Row – Informal Discussion on driveway proposal**

Lou and Joan Berube came before the Board to informally discuss work that has been being completed on their house at 112 Farmers Row. Years ago, they came before the Board for various work and unfortunately it has just taken this long to complete everything. One of these items was brickwork and it was intended for this to eventually become the driveway. Over the winter, they learned that there was a leak in their driveway, which has caused the hot-top to sink. Mr. Berube explained that during the same time, he learned that he had an auto-immune disorder that causes great pain in his joints and that completing and finishing this driveway is now urgent for him to do this since how off-balance the driveway is. Since they always intended on making this driveway brick, they were going to start working on this as soon as possible but before doing so, they wanted to check that their permit from years ago would still allow them to re-do the driveway. Mr. Berube confirmed that these bricks were the same exact brick that were previously approved for to be used and that are currently down for the patio that was laid out back. He also confirmed that this patio work could be seen from the main road.

There was brief discussion on this matter and it was eventually determined that since it is the same exact brick that was previously approved of and same exact brick that is currently laid down for the back patio that can be seen form the main road, that the Board did not mind the continuation of this work, since it is not necessarily newly proposed work and more-so just a continuation of the back patio work in to the driveway. Due to this, the Board also agreed that any fees should be waived to apply for a continuation of the work (such as a “new” certificate of appropriateness that would normally be submitted).

*Member Cartier made a motion that the Board extend the Certificate of Appropriateness for 112 Farmers Row to finish paving the driveway using the submitted brick pavers and cobblestones. Member Moore seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously.*

**Commissioner Updates:**

None.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Member Hicks motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 20th, 2024.* *Member Rand seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously.*

Next meeting to be held on April 16th, 2024.

*Member Hicks made a motion to adjourn. Member Cartier seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 PM**

Respectfully Submitted By: Amanda Urmann