



APPROVED BY COMMISSION
MAY 22, 2025

**HIGHLAND PARK ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Held virtually via Zoom

April 27, 2023

Commissioners Present: Andrew Shelburne, Suleman Gajere, Ernest Coston

Commissioners Absent: Angela Cook

Staff Present: Gabriela Amore, Preservation Planner

Meeting minutes are meant to provide a broad overview of the hearing and not meant to serve as a transcript of discussions that are found in the hearing recording. A full recording of the hearing is available at:

<https://www.boston.gov/historic-district/highland-park-architectural-conservation-district>

5:34 PM: Acting Chair S. Gajere called the public hearing to order. He explained that, pursuant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, that the public hearing was being conducted virtually via the online meeting platform Zoom in order to review Design Review applications. He also briefly explained how to participate in the online hearing.

Following this brief introduction he called the first Advisory Review application.

I. ADVISORY REVIEW

APP # 23.0739 HP

ADDRESS: 146 THORNTON STREET

Applicant: Joseph Higginbottom III

Proposed work: Construct new 3 story building.

Project Representative: Joseph Higginbottom III was the project representative.

Documents Presented: The Commissioners reviewed a presentation consisting of photos of existing conditions, plans, and preliminary drawings for the proposed work.



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Discussion Topics: The Commissioners inquired about the status of any ZBA review, requested more details on the landscape and driveway plans, context about how the proposed new construction relates to the character of the District, and height perspectives from various points on the street, along with scaled drawings. They also suggested a more articulate roofline, and exploring a setback.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

APP # 23.0806 HP

ADDRESS: 54 JOHN ELIOT SQUARE

Applicant: Gregg Donovan

Proposed work: Construct additional level and head house on top of existing building.

Project Representative: Terri Williams, Cecilia Isaac, Matt Hyatt, Gregg Donovan, and John Piacitelli were the project representatives.

Documents Presented: The Commissioners reviewed a presentation consisting of photos of existing conditions, plans, and details for the proposed work.

Discussion Topics: The Commissioners discussed the preservation and safeguarding of the existing historic mile marker on the site, and clarified the accessibility of the sidewalk for pedestrian use and curb cut maintenance. They discussed the need for details on the landscape treatment. The Commissioners requested more context for surrounding heights in the next iteration, and suggested retaining the brick banding at the building cornice.

Public Comment: David Black stated his support of the upper level treatment, and asked about parking details. Jon Ellerston stated concern regarding parking details.

II. STAFF UPDATES

Commissioners stated that they would prefer to start hearings at 6pm.

III. ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 PM

Commissioner A. Shelburne motioned to adjourn the hearing. Commissioner E. Coston seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 (Y: AC, AS, EC, SG) (N: None) (Abs: None).