

July 15, 2016

Acton Historical Commission

472 Main Street

Acton, MA

Acton Zoning Board of Appeals

472 Main Street

Acton, Massachusetts

Dear members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

The Historical Commission would like to comment on the proposed 40B project at 248 High Street.

Last Summer we were asked to consider the demolition of the existing house for the purpose of development of the property. In response to that request, we conducted a site visit and a public hearing on September 9th. This commission did not support the demolition and the owner was advised that the Historical Commission voted unanimously to place a 12 month delay on the request. As a recourse, the 12 month delay is the only action that this commission can take on the process to try and find an alternative to destroying the house.

Since this is the first time that this Board has received a request to comment on the property, we have to advise the Zoning Board of Appeals that we have not changed our position on the demolition of the house. We note in the application that the applicant failed to note the presence of the house or that it is on the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Cultural Resource List.

Our Commission has had spirited discussions about the demolition of both this house and others that stood on properties that are now a part of a 40B project. Much comment has been received about seeking the guidance of the Massachusetts Historical Commission because these projects are sought through a state agency and it is our considered opinion that the historical value needs to be considered.

As these projects appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals, please realize that this Commission has spent much time and energy to place this house and others that have disappeared through the 40B process. We thoroughly understand the need for affordable housing but it comes at a cost of losing our historic assets, we hope that the Zoning Board of Appeals can work with the Town's Boards and citizens to provide a balance.

Sincerely,

William Klauer

Member