

Ms. Carol T. McPherson
60 Margaret Rd.
Newton Highlands,
MA, 02461

Sept. 25, 2013

Mr. Donald Lang, Chairman
Newton Historical Commission
City of Newton Dept. of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

Re: July 25, 2013 Public Hearing's
Demolition Review for the historic
Wetherell House incorrectly listed
at 8-14 Wetherell Street

Dear Chairman Lang:

I am writing to ask that you and the Commission declare "null and void" the decision that the above -listed property was found "not preferably preserved" on July 25th and place it on the docket for another hearing once it is clarified whether it is the two back apartments at 8 and 14 Wetherell Street that are to be demolished and/or the main Wetherell House which is located at 192 Elliot Street. The City Clerk's public posting on July 12th of the 7/25 agenda listed (#9) "8-14 Wetherell Street- Demolition Review" . . . there was no mention of the main house that lists at 192 Elliot Street . . . and yet the discussion at the Commission's meeting on 7/25 focused on the demolition of the whole house.

I also must point out that there were only four commission members in attendance at that meeting and the vote was split 2 for "preferably preserving" and 2 for "not preferably preserving". There was not a "majority vote" as required by the Commission's "Rules and Regulations" for any decision of the Commission. . . . there needed to be enough commission members present to break a tie vote! There were two members and two alternates missing. This demolition request needs to be brought back again before a full commission and the developer needs to clarify whether he is applying to demolish the back two apartments on Wetherell Street and/or the main house at 192 Elliot Street.

As a Commission whose "sacred trust and commitment" is to, wherever possible, protect and preserve historic buildings in an historic village . . . the Commission should have leaned toward "preferably preserving" the building in the face of a tie-vote. May I remind you of your statement that night: "The (Wetherell) building has a historical connection to Upper Falls and Greek Revivals are few in number in Newton"!

Please put a hold on any actions of the developer until the necessary clarifications of his Intent can be ascertained, and reschedule this hearing before the full commission at a future date.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

Carol T. McPherson

Committee for the Preservation of Historic Newton Upper Falls

Cc City of Newton: Law Department and Inspectional Services