

Ann Machado - Barak Olins Proposed Development

From: Robert Wood <woodsmaine@gmail.com>
To: <amachado@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: 7/31/2014 3:58 PM
Subject: Barak Olins Proposed Development

Hello Ann Machado,

I wish to have my written comments/communication below entered into the record and be heard in its entirety by the Portland Historic Preservation Board and the Planning Board.

Thank you,

Robert Wood
10 Taylor Street
Portland, Me.

July 31, 2014

Dear Neighbor,

For those of you who do not know me, I have been the proud owner of 8-10 Taylor Street since 1981. Over those years, I have made it a point to get to know as many property owners as I can, and I have witnessed steady, significant improvement to the neighborhood fabric from the time of absentee landlords and drug/police raid problems. The City's Good Neighbors Home Ownership Program brought owner occupancy and rehabilitation to several of these poorly managed houses. The Portland West Organization (now Learning Works, which I support) was also instrumental in achieving neighborhood based improvements. These neighborhood achievements have been accomplished under established zoning rules, without exceptions required from the Planning Board. There is no reason why this trend can not and should not continue with good judgment in decision making, and not judgment which is permissive in stretching the rules.

Here is what I know from City of Portland public records and a mailed Notice from the Planning Division. There is a vacant lot at the corner of Taylor St; and May St. identified as Parcel 57-B-13, 2-6 Taylor Street and 14-16 May Street, 3,050 Sq. Ft., which is being proposed to develop a single family home by owners Barak L. and Miriam J. Olins, 22 Vesper St., Portland, who purchased the lot 12/4/12, \$130,000, Registry Book and Page 30179/273-275.

THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND CITY OFFICIALS INVOLVED ARE ATTACHED.

While I am not opposed to the owners developing the lot, I do have serious concerns about this particular proposed structure. In my opinion, it is devoid of any redeeming or neighborhood character architectural features. In my opinion, the structure is quite out of character with the overwhelming majority of houses in this old, established historic neighborhood. There would also be a significant visual impact that the proposed structure would have, as it is located on a corner lot which abuts the Historic District. In my opinion, if this structure is built, it would have a detrimental effect on the character and property values of surrounding residences, and is simply not something I would like to see forever into the future.

I am hoping there is like mindedness of my neighbors, and if in significant enough numbers, meet to get consensus on the proper steps to have our voices heard by the City officials involved. If there is no involvement of the voices of the neighborhood, there will be no reason why City officials should be concerned in that regard. **YOU CAN ACT NOW BY ATTENDING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PUBLIC COMMENTS MEETING** Wed, 8/6/14, 6:30 PM, room 209, City Hall (see attached notice)

Please feel free to contact me at the following. I am still gainfully employed with little free time, so I am hoping that an organizer with a bit of time on their hands might take the lead to organize a neighborhood meeting, perhaps at the Reiche or Waynflete School. All that is needed now to start this is name (s), address and contact info. I will commit to getting that list together via your email to me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Wood 10 Taylor Street, Portland, Me. 04102 woodsmaine@gmail.com 329-0609

Copy: Ann Machado, Zoning Specialist, City Hall amachado@portlandmaine.gov