



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIVISION STAFF

GEORGE PROAKIS, *DIRECTOR OF PLANNING*
LORI MASSA, *SENIOR PLANNER*
AMIE HAYES, *PLANNER*
MELISSA WOODS, *PLANNER*
DAWN PEREIRA, *ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*

Case #: ZBA 2015-29

Date: June 18, 2015

Recommendation: Conditional Approval

PLANNING STAFF REPORT

Site: 31-33 Century Street

Applicant & Owner Name: Ella Goren

Applicant & Owner Address: 119 Commonwealth Road Wayland, MA 01778

Agent Name: Lucio Trabucco

Agent Address: 315A Chestnut Street Needham, MA 02692

Alderman: Tony Lafuente

Legal Notice: Applicant and Owner, Ella Goren, seeks a Special Permit to enclose the rear decks, build front porches, and make window and door alterations. RB Zone. Ward 4.

Dates of Public Hearing: Zoning Board of Appeals – June 24, 2015

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Subject Property: The subject property is an existing triple decker on a 2,940 square foot lot.
2. Proposal: The proposal is to enclose the existing rear decks and add front porches. As part of the proposal, there will be doors added to access the front porches and some windows added on the side elevation. There is a by-right renovating taking place on the interior.
3. Green Building Practices: The house will be insulated and all of the windows will be upgraded.
4. Comments:

Fire Prevention: Fire prevention has been contacted and has no comments at this time.



Electrical Inspector: The enclosed rear porches shall be wired as a room.

Ward Alderman: Alderman Lafuente has been contacted and has no comments at this time.

II. FINDINGS FOR SPECIAL PERMIT:

In order to grant a special permit, the SPGA must make certain findings and determinations as outlined in §5.1.4 of the SZO. This section of the report goes through §5.1.4 in detail.

1. Information Supplied:

The Staff finds that the information provided by the Applicant conforms to the requirements of §5.1.2 of the SZO and allows for a comprehensive analysis of the project with respect to the required Special Permits.

2. Compliance with Standards: *The Applicant must comply "with such criteria or standards as may be set forth in this Ordinance which refer to the granting of the requested special permit."*

Lawfully existing nonconforming structures other than one- and two-family dwellings may be enlarged, extended, renovated or altered only by special permit. The window and door alterations, enclosing the rear deck, and adding front porches require a special permit.

In considering a special permit under §4.4 of the SZO, Staff find that the alterations proposed would not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing structure.

3. Consistency with Purposes: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project "is consistent with (1) the general purposes of this Ordinance as set forth in Article 1, and (2) the purposes, provisions, and specific objectives applicable to the requested special permit which may be set forth elsewhere in this Ordinance, such as, but not limited to, those purposes at the beginning of the various Articles."*

The proposal is consistent with the general purposes of the Ordinance as set forth under §1.2, which includes, but is not limited to promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Somerville; to conserve the value of land and buildings; and to encourage housing for persons of all income levels.

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the district, which is, "To establish and preserve medium density neighborhoods of one-, two- and three-family homes, free from other uses except those which are both compatible with and convenient to the residents of such districts."

4. Site and Area Compatibility: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project "(i)s designed in a manner that is compatible with the characteristics of the built and unbuilt surrounding area, including land uses."*

The surrounding neighborhood is primarily triple deckers. The property is in close proximity to Healey School, Winter Hill, I-93, and Medford.

There are little to no impacts to the proposal except those customary to residential uses.

5. Housing Impact: *Will not create adverse impacts on the stock of existing affordable housing.*

There will be no impacts to the existing stock of affordable housing.

6. SomerVision Plan: *Complies with the applicable goals, policies and actions of the SomerVision plan, including the following, as appropriate: Preserve and enhance the character of Somerville's neighborhoods, transform key opportunity areas, preserve and expand an integrated, balanced mix of safe, affordable and environmentally sound rental and homeownership units for households of all sizes and types from diverse social and economic groups; and, make Somerville a regional employment center with a mix of diverse and high-quality jobs. The areas in the SomerVision map that are designated as enhance and transform should most significantly contribute towards the SomerVision goals that are outlined in the table below. The areas marked as conserve are not expected to greatly increase the figures in the table since these areas are not intended for large scale change.*

The project will not contribute to the metrics of SomerVision but will allow a property owner to make minor modifications to their property.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the materials submitted by the Applicant, the above findings and subject to the following conditions, the Planning Staff recommends **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL** of the requested **SPECIAL PERMIT**.

The recommendation is based upon a technical analysis by Planning Staff of the application material based upon the required findings of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance, and is based only upon information submitted prior to the public hearing. This report may be revised or updated with new recommendations, findings and/or conditions based upon additional information provided to the Planning Staff during the public hearing process.

#	Condition	Timeframe for Compliance	Verified (initial)	Notes						
1	Approval is for window and door alterations, enclosing the rear decks, and adding front porches. This approval is based upon the following application materials and the plans submitted by the Applicant:	BP/CO	ISD/ Plng.							
	<table><tr><th>Date (Stamp Date)</th><th>Submission</th></tr><tr><td>May 18, 2015</td><td>Initial application submitted to the City Clerk’s Office</td></tr><tr><td>(June 18, 2015)</td><td>Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Plot Plan, E1.1 – Extg Plans, E1.2 – Extg Elev, A1.0 – Proposed Plans, A2.0 – Proposed Elevations)</td></tr></table>				Date (Stamp Date)	Submission	May 18, 2015	Initial application submitted to the City Clerk’s Office	(June 18, 2015)	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Plot Plan, E1.1 – Extg Plans, E1.2 – Extg Elev, A1.0 – Proposed Plans, A2.0 – Proposed Elevations)
	Date (Stamp Date)				Submission					
	May 18, 2015				Initial application submitted to the City Clerk’s Office					
(June 18, 2015)	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Plot Plan, E1.1 – Extg Plans, E1.2 – Extg Elev, A1.0 – Proposed Plans, A2.0 – Proposed Elevations)									
Any changes to the approved plan or elevations that are not <i>de minimis</i> must receive SPGA approval.										
Construction Impacts										

2	The Applicant shall at his expense replace any existing equipment (including, but not limited to street sign poles, signs, traffic signal poles, traffic signal equipment, wheel chair ramps, granite curbing, etc) and the entire sidewalk immediately abutting the subject property if damaged as a result of construction activity. All new sidewalks and driveways must be constructed to DPW standard.	CO	DPW	
3	All construction materials and equipment must be stored onsite. If occupancy of the street layout is required, such occupancy must be in conformance with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the prior approval of the Traffic and Parking Department must be obtained.	During Construction	T&P	
Design				
4	An exterior light and electrical receptacle is required for the first level of the porch and an electrical receptacle is required for the upper levels.	Final sign off	Wiring Insp	
5	The front porch roof shall align with the roof parapet and have a cornice. Applicant shall submit a revised elevation for review and approval.	BP	Plng	
Miscellaneous				
6	The Applicant, its successors and/or assigns, shall be responsible for maintenance of both the building and all on-site amenities, including landscaping, fencing, lighting, parking areas and storm water systems, ensuring they are clean, well kept and in good and safe working order.	Cont.	ISD	
Public Safety				
7	The Applicant or Owner shall meet the Fire Prevention Bureau's requirements.	CO	FP	
Final Sign-Off				
8	The Applicant shall contact Planning Staff at least five working days in advance of a request for a final inspection by Inspectional Services to ensure the proposal was constructed in accordance with the plans and information submitted and the conditions attached to this approval.	Final sign off	Plng.	

