



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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DAWN PEREIRA, *ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*

Case #: ZBA 2015-35

Date: July 9, 2015

Recommendation: Conditional Approval

PLANNING STAFF REPORT

Site: 27 William Street

Applicant & Owner Name: Elizabeth Pinsky and Sara Cable

Applicant & Owner Address: 27 William Street Somerville, MA 02144

Agent Name: Andrea Morton

Agent Address: 561 Windsor Street Suite A404 Somerville, MA 02143

Alderman: Rebekah Gewirtz

Legal Notice: Applicant and Owners, Elizabeth Pinsky and Sara Cable, seek a Special Permit per SZO 4.4 to modify a rear egress and front porch within setbacks. RA zone. Ward 6.

Dates of Public Hearing: Zoning Board of Appeals – July 15, 2015

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Subject Property: The subject property is a 2 ½ story single family house on a 2,250 square foot lot.
2. Proposal: The proposal is to further enclose the front porch and modify the rear egress. The existing front porch will be rebuilt with a hip roof and windows on 3 sides. The rear egress is currently a landing and will be extended in length to match existing dimensions on the home. It will allow for modifications on the exterior including moving the rear door. There are other by-right renovations being done on the interior of the home.
3. Green Building Practices: None listed on the application.
4. Comments:



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

II. FINDINGS FOR SPECIAL PERMIT (SZO §4.4.1):

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."*

Per §4.4.1 of the SZO, lawful existing one- and two- family dwelling which are nonconforming with respect to dimensional requirements may be enlarged, expanded, renovated, or altered by special permit. To extend the length of the rear landing and further enclose the porch requires 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. Extending the rear landing makes it more usable and keeps it within the footprint of the house. The front porch, with adequate amount of glazing and new front steps, will enhance the appearance of the front of the home.

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 and to conserve the value of land and buildings.

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the district, which is, "To establish and preserve quiet neighborhoods of one- and two-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 a mix of one-, two-, and three-family homes in close proximity to Davis Square.

There are little to no impacts of the proposal.

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

The proposal will have no impacts on the stock of existing 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 proposal does not directly impact the metrics of SomerVision but does allow a property owner to make reasonable alterations to the property.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Special Permit under §4.4.1

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
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1	Approval is for extending the rear stair landing and further enclosing the front porch. This approval is based upon the following application materials and the plans submitted by the Applicant:	BP/CO	ISD/ PIng.							
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date (Stamp Date)</th> <th>Submission</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>June 11, 2015</td> <td>Initial application submitted to the City Clerk's Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2, 2015</td> <td>Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (EX1.1 Plan, EX2.1 South Elev, EX2.2 West Elev, EX2.3 North Elev, EX2.4 East Elev, A1.1 Plan, A2.1 South Elev, A2.2 West Elev, A2.3 North Elev, A2.4 East Elev)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Date (Stamp Date)	Submission	June 11, 2015	Initial application submitted to the City Clerk's Office	July 2, 2015	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (EX1.1 Plan, EX2.1 South Elev, EX2.2 West Elev, EX2.3 North Elev, EX2.4 East Elev, A1.1 Plan, A2.1 South Elev, A2.2 West Elev, A2.3 North Elev, A2.4 East Elev)
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Any changes to the approved plan or elevations that are not <i>de minimis</i> must receive SPGA approval.										
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	The enclosed front porch shall be finished to match or be complementary to the existing home.	BP	PIng.							
Miscellaneous										
5	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							
Final Sign-Off										
6	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	PIng.							

