

RE: 238 Deer St
Meeting: HDC 11-03-21

October 28, 2021

Dear Chairperson Wyckoff and Members of Historic District Commission,

238 Deer Street's current look is tasteful with a nice balance of the neighborhood it abuts and some of the more sophisticated buildings in the CD5 zoning. Looking at the architectural renderings a few times, on pages 3 and 4 of the application, *it just seemed very sterile*, in spite of the protruding front with the complementing brick and clapboards and the nicely cut out railing on the top. It didn't fit next to any of the buildings and seemed more suited for an office park.

Driving around Portsmouth it became apparent what was missing, **basic exterior window accents**. Most windows, *especially in the Historic District* have either a few false shutters or colonial trim. Some have flared window trim, roofline extenders or even awnings. The windows at 238 Deer Street have NO trim whatsoever making the whole building seem unfinished and raw. There is not even a simple upper window trim which can be found on the brick buildings which surround it. Looking at the submitted photos, starting on page 21, even Staley's has nicely matching awnings and the *plumbing store across the street has false shutters*.

This property was allowed to build a massive structure on a postage stamp piece of land which was an architectural challenge in and of itself. The property was granted a very unique parking Conditional Use Permit for ALL of its parking. Based on the construction products pages starting on page 24, the inside will have beautiful interior trims throughout the building. It would be a shame to not complete the project by adding some kind of trim or exterior window accents to some or all of the windows, especially those surrounded by clapboards.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bratter
159 McDonough St
Property Owner

RE: 1& 31 Raynes Ave, 203 Maplewood Ave
Meeting: HDC 11/03/21

Dear Historic District Commission Members,

October 28, 2021

At this time there has been nothing available to preview regarding Raynes Ave. It would have been nice to have been able to view what will be presented before submitting a letter.

It might be helpful for the commission as well as the development team to look at some other ideas for 4 and 5 story buildings. The August 11th submission seemed like it was lacking in character, much less historic promise.

When reviewing the slide show it should be remembered that each building was designed by an architect(s) who owns the rights to those designs. The purpose of these few slides is just to spark some ideas and still be able to maintain the objectives of the development. The main concerns are the area being developed is in a historic area of Portsmouth, the buildings should reflect this AND these buildings sit directly across the North Mill Pond and Maplewood Ave from classic historic buildings in Portsmouth and the proposed buildings should minimally compliment them. Page 18 of the August 11, 2021 submission shows the existing buildings.

http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/apps/RaynesAve_1/RaynesAve_1_HDC_WS_081121.pdf

Residents from Nobel Island could swim to this development. They and the residents across the North Mill Pond will have to look at it everyday until they move. This area is zoned CD4 across from CD4-L1 and GRA zoning, both the lowest zoning in Portsmouth.

This is one of the more beautiful areas in Portsmouth, with views of both ends of the North Mill Pond and the Piscatequa River. Hopefully the buildings will be changed to reflect the honor of being one of the first buildings on the North End to be seen as one travels from Maplewood Ave. It could make a positive statement which compliments the old and the new as well as reflects the beauty of this fantastic location, especially on the waterfront side of the buildings. Looking at Exhibit 14 (pg 15) from the August 11th submission that seems to be an area that could use some inspiration.

Thank you for taking the time to review the presented slides.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bratter
159 McDonough St
Property Owner



200 First Street Dover



21 Third Street Dover



Riverwoods Durham



South Beach
Salisbury, MA



Noble Island
Portsmouth, NH



Boston, MA



Found online



To: Portsmouth Historic District Commission
Subject: Comments for 11/3/2021 HDC Meeting for 52 Prospect Street
From: Jim Strack, 49 Prospect Street, Portsmouth, NH

I support the Applicant's request for HDC Approval. The Applicant will be replacing the existing aluminum siding with siding that is more appropriate for a Historic District. The Applicant will also be replacing all the windows in the house with windows that are more energy efficient, something that is important in our fight against global warming.

While not a specific factor in the request for HDC approval, the proposed renovation will certainly be a betterment to the Neighborhood. It will transform a home with two bedrooms into a three-bedroom home with an additional bathroom as well as add two offices. With more employees working from home now and into the foreseeable future, this renovation helps provide a home that will accommodate a changing world.

The Applicant has owned the home for about 15 years and have become an integral and valued part of the neighborhood. A lot of thought has been expended to design a renovation that adheres to the historic fabric of the District.

As stated above, I fully support the Applicant's request for zoning relief. Thank you for your consideration.