



City of Somerville
URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

APRIL 25, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was conducted via remote participation on GoToWebinar.

NAME	TITLE	STATUS	ARRIVED
Sarah Lewis	Co-Chair	<i>Present</i>	
Luisa Oliveira	Co-Chair	<i>Absent</i>	
Frank Valdes	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Deborah Fennick	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Andrew Arbaugh	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Cheri Ruane	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Tim Talun	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Tim Houde	Alternate	<i>Absent</i>	

City staff present: Andrew Graminski (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning), Wendy Sczechowicz (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm and adjourned at 6:30pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Member Ruane, and seconded by Member Talun, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the 24 January 2023 meeting minutes.

PUBLIC MEETING: 142 Cross Street (P&Z 20-005)

The applicant team presented the project, including the neighborhood context, three façade designs, and the proposed floor plans.

The Commission and applicant team discussed the ADA entrance for the building, the trash/recycling plan, the outdoor amenity space for Unit 1, and the concerns the Commission had regarding the lack of green space and why further information was not included in the Commission's packet on this project. Staff stated that it was their error that the packet was missing information.

The Commission stated that there was too much information missing, including two sets of elevations and the landscape plan, and also felt that the team needed a more enriched façade treatment instead of just color swapping. They also stated that they would like to better understand how the materials would meet the ground and noted that the building is small so that to introduce four materials creates a less coherent look; they would like a more coherent appearance across the building. The Commission also recommended that the applicant team consider changing how they designed the first-floor apartment and its window articulation to better screen that space from the public right of way.

Following a motion by Member Valdes, seconded by Member Ruane, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to continue the case to 9 May 2023.

RESULT:	CONTINUED
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NOTICE: These minutes constitute a summary of the votes and key discussions at this meeting. A recording of these proceedings can be accessed at any time by using the registration link at the top of the meeting agenda.