



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 25, 2019

Roger P. & Robert M. Peixinho, Trustees
Peixinho Realty Trust
430 McGrath Highway
Somerville, MA 02143

Richard G. Di Girolamo
424 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145

2019 APR 25 P 4:36
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

**Re: Demolition of the wood-frame house building Determined Significant: 4/16/2019
at 430 McGrath Highway**

Sirs,

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to determine the c. 1852 wood-frame dwellings at 430 McGrath Highway 'Significant' because the building, per Section 2.17.B of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, is "at least 50 years old, and is or has been determined by the Commission to be a significant building or structure after a finding that the building or structure is either:

- i. "Importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or
- ii. "Historically or architecturally significant (in terms of period, style, method of building construction, or association with a reputed architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished."

The period of significance for 430 McGrath begins with its construction *prior to* 1852. The Greek Revival style is a uniquely American house form. This style was popular 1820-1860 and is characterized pedimented front or side gables, a colonnade, and other classical architectural motifs. The front door surround is of particular note.

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its Greek Revival architecture, and its associations with the locally prominent Munroe and Edgerly families.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2019 to review the initial determination of 'Significance' and if the buildings should be 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D, "If the Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental



to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered preferably preserved." Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, followed by a discussion and a vote by the Commission.

Please remit a check made out to the City of Somerville of \$135.00 for each property to cover the cost of the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing for two weeks in the newspaper and given to Historic Preservation Staff. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristenna Chase", written over a horizontal line.

Kristenna P. Chase
Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division
Sarah Lewis, Director, Planning Division
Hans Jensen, Zoning Review Planner
John Long, City Clerk