



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

June 14, 2018

The Honorable City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Appointments & Briefings at a Meeting held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, held a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW OF 2904 ACUSHNET AVENUE, (MAP 130D, LOT 247) a Circa late nineteenth century two-story residence and barn structure – advising that “the structures are historically significant due to their association with members of the Spooner family who settled in this location from Plymouth in 1660, eight years after the “Old Dartmouth” land mass was purchased from Wamsutta in 1652, the Spooners were a well respected farming family whose vast land holdings were primarily located in the subject area, north of Acushnet Village; the residential structure, although associated with the Spooner family, has been altered, the barn, which retains its original form, massing and materials, is a good example of its regional barn type and is significant due to its connection with the Spooner family, its long term agricultural use, and is representative of New Bedford’s early rural character, the property lacks in integrity, as it no longer possesses its historic qualities of setting and feeling, the land surrounding the subject parcel is no longer used for agricultural purposes and due to its location bordered by commercial development and its current Mixed-Use Business Zoning; it is no longer attractive as a residential use, additionally, the barn currently lacks context due to its commercial surrounding and will not likely experience adaptive reuse, “in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structures at 2904 Acushnet Avenue are historically significant, but not preferably preserved historic structures.” (Ref’d 4/12/18) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the DEMOLITION of 2904 ACUSHNET AVENUE, (MAP 130D, LOT 247), TWO STORY RESIDENCE AND BARN STRUCTURE. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed.

IN COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS &
BRIEFINGS

Councillor Debora Coelho, Chairperson

DC: dmb



City of New Bedford
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
Telephone: (508) 979.1488

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford City Council
FROM: New Bedford Historical Commission
DATE: April 3, 2018
RE: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW
2904 Acushnet Avenue (Map 130D Lot 247)
Circa late 19th century two storey residence and barn structure.

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NEW BEDFORD, MA

In accordance with the requirements of the New Bedford City Code, Article XI, Section 2-157 Demolition of Buildings, the New Bedford Historical Commission [NBHC] has examined the structures located at the above-captioned site in order to determine their historical significance and whether it is in the public interest to preserve such structures.

The NBHC reviewed the application for demolition at its April 2, 2018 meeting, and hereby forwards its findings and recommendation in this matter to the New Bedford City Council:

- The structures are historically significant due to their association with members of the Spooner family who settled in this location from Plymouth in 1660, eight years after the “Old Dartmouth” land mass was purchased from Wamsutta in 1652. The Spooners were a well respected farming family whose vast land holdings were primarily located in the subject area, north of Acushnet Village.
- The residential structure, although associated with the Spooner family, has been altered. The barn, which retains its original form, massing and materials, is a good example of its regional barn type and is significant due to its connection with the Spooner family, its long term agricultural use, and is representative of New Bedford’s early rural character.
- The property lacks in integrity, as it no longer possesses its historic qualities of setting and feeling. The land surrounding the subject parcel is no longer used for agricultural purposes and due to its location bordered by commercial development and its current Mixed Use Business Zoning; it is no longer attractive as a residential use. Additionally, the barn currently lacks context due to its commercial surroundings and will not likely experience adaptive reuse.

In light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structures at 2904 Acushnet Avenue are historically significant, but not preferably preserved historic structures.

cc. Farland Corp., Inc., Applicant
Kevin Burgess, Property Owner
Department of Inspectional Services
Mayor’s Office