

Lysynski, Heather

From: Gloria Hinton
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2011 10:49 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather
Cc: Baechler, Joni; Bryant, Judy; nancy2@nanbran.com
Subject: 764 Waterloo St

To: BNEC Chair & members.

While I live just a few houses outside the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District, I am nevertheless very concerned with the application to demolish the property at 764 Waterloo Street which is clearly in the designated district. The residents in the area spent countless hours in acquiring the designation in order to protect the residential heritage and prevent the invasion of commercial development.

The property in question has Queen Ann revival characteristics and many of the original interior qualities are still in place albeit that the property has been purposely left to disintegrate and appears to be unsecured. Several residents who are engaged in restoration projects have visited the property in recent days and have cited that it is recoverable.

While I cannot speak for the community, I have spoken to several residents who feel that the city does not feel obligated to honour heritage designations and will always vote in favour of the developer. In this case allowing demolition to accommodate a commercial/residential block on the site is totally unacceptable.

I would suggest that the decision to demolish be postponed until a full site plan is developed and approved by the Bishop Hellmuth residents. I would also recommend that the plan be developed with 2 scenarios, one with the house demolished and one with the house staying in place.

I present the latter option given that it may be in Mr. Farhi's interest to donate the house to the Bishop Hellmuth district as a possible site for a museum which would highlight the history of the district and stand as a lasting legacy in our city. This offer would represent a gesture of goodwill from Mr. Farhi and would encourage him to design the adjacent land in keeping with such a cornerstone in the heritage district.

In closing, I find this whole issue of demolition and commercial development in a heritage district contrary to the primary goals of heritage designation, and I urge the committee to carefully consider the consequences of setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

Sincerely,
Gloria Hinton

by e-mail