

The Easton Planning Commission met on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in the 6th Floor Council Chambers, Easton City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Charles Elliott. Present: Charles Elliott, Robert Sun, James Bloom and Ronald Shipman. Also in attendance were staff members Becky Bradley, Director of Planning & Codes; Brian Gish, Chief Planner; Carl Manges, City Planner; and Tina Woolverton, Secretary. Joel Scheer, City Solicitor, was present.

The agenda was approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2011 meeting was made by Mr. Sun, seconded by Mr. Bloom, approved by all.

Privilege of the Floor. None

Special Exception 717 Northampton Street. Mr. Manges said the applicant, Rosa Munoz, proposes to establish a C6-Retail Specialty (religious items retail store) use in the vacant 585 s.f. first floor of an existing mixed use building. The property is located in the West Ward Zoning District, Street Corridor Enhancement Overlay District where the proposed use is permitted as a Special Exception. Since the applicant was not present to answer questions, a motion was made by Mr. Shipman and seconded by Mr. Bloom not to make a recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Sun was in favor of the motion, and Mr. Elliott was in favor of recommending approval.

Certificate of Blight – 120 Northampton Street. Ms. Bradley told the Commission that in June of 2009 they had determined blight on this property. After an appeal from the property owner, and a hearing before the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals and the Honorable Judge Michael V. Franciosa, the determination was upheld and the process can continue to certify blight of the property. A motion to approve the revised resolution certifying blight of 120 Northampton Street was made by Mr. Sun, seconded by Mr. Shipman, approved by all.

Staff Update 600 Block of Northampton Street Master Plan. Ms. Bradley said much work has been done on the text, and the next step is a major design charrette for the treelawn area, along with some stormwater management. She noted that some current inappropriate plantings are in place, and the treelawn lacks passage areas to the business entryways. She said a design meeting is scheduled for April 28 for design input. She reminded the Commission that the groundbreaking for the Karl Stirner Arts trail was scheduled for Thursday, April 7 at 2:00 pm.

EAC Update. Mr. Elliott said the EAC discussed signage for the shad spawning project and discussed their role in the Comprehensive Plan re-write.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.