

ARTICLE 6

VOTED: that the Town amend its General By-Laws to establish the Hancock Village Neighborhood Conservation District, defined by the map attached hereto, by adding a new section 5.10.3.d as follows:

d. Specific districts and guidelines.

1. There shall be a Neighborhood Conservation District, to be entitled the “Hancock Village Neighborhood Conservation District”, the boundaries of which are shown on the map entitled “Hancock Village Neighborhood Conservation District”, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk’s office, which is hereby declared to be part of this By-law.

The first and largest garden city apartment complex in Brookline, Hancock Village (1946-1949) is significant as a far-sighted, historically important collaboration between the town of Brookline and the Boston-based John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company to provide both employment and housing for returning World War II veterans. The development, which straddles the Brookline-Boston line, consists of 789 two-story attached townhouses, most of which are located in Brookline. In consideration of a zoning change by the Town which allowed the development to proceed, the development was designed and built as a high-quality development in the “garden village” style, meaning that each dwelling unit had a separate entrance to the exterior; the units were town-homes of two stories with peaked roofs; there was substantial open space; and there was a “greenbelt” serving as a buffer between the development and adjacent single-family homes. Such elements were embodied in commitments made on behalf of John Hancock Insurance by its president Paul F. Clark, including an agreement with the Town of Brookline executed March 11, 1946. The landscape design was by Olmsted Associates, a Brookline firm with international experience and reputation. Significantly, Hancock Village remains the quality housing development conceived in those commitments and original design, and therefore remains internally coherent in design and compatible in scale, siting and impact with the adjacent neighborhood of single-family homes and with the D. Blakely Hoar Wildlife Sanctuary, especially due to the retention in Hancock Village of open lawns, courtyards and common areas, pedestrian paths, consistent town-house style buildings of modest scale, unobstructed sky planes, buffer zones, and significant landscape features such as puddingstone outcrops. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Hancock Village Neighborhood has as such remained an important historic property in Brookline and a compatible part of the fabric of the community and the adjacent neighborhood.

The Hancock Village Neighborhood Conservation District shall be governed by the following design guidelines. Any further development shall be compatible with the existing development of the district and its relationship to the adjacent neighborhood:

- i. Architectural style and character. The architectural design and building materials of any proposed Reviewable Project shall be compatible with the existing garden-village town-house architecture within the district, with, for

example, each dwelling unit having a separate entrance to the exterior.

- ii. Building size, height and massing. The size, height and massing of a building or other structure which is part of any proposed Reviewable Project shall be compatible with existing buildings and other structures within the district and the adjacent neighborhood, and the elements considered shall include but not be limited to the volume and dimensions of any buildings or other structure; the scale, clustering and massing of any building or other structure in relation to its surroundings, including existing buildings and other structures and nearby landscape and other open spaces; and compatibility of design and materials with existing buildings and other structures. Compatible building size, height and massing shall include, not be limited to limited to:
 - a. No building over 2 ½ stories in height, measured from the highest point of the finished grade of each unit, shall be constructed.
 - b. In relation to any abutting single-family, detached homes, any new single-family homes shall be similarly oriented, have similar rear yard depths, and similar distance between dwelling units.
- iii. Façade. The number, size and location and design of windows, doors and solid elements, trim work, piers, pilasters, soffits, cornices, decks, porches and canopies, and the design of window and door details, including trim, muntins, mullion and sills, need not replicate but shall be compatible with the existing buildings within the district. Alterations necessary for handicap accessibility shall be compatible to the extent reasonably feasible.
- iv. Roof treatment. The shape, pitch, style, and type of surfacing of roof areas shall be compatible with those of buildings within the district. Including buildings in any Reviewable Project, buildings with flat or approximately flat roofs will not exceed 25% of the total number of buildings in the entire NCD.
- v. Streetscape, topography and landscape. Any proposed Reviewable Project (including demolition, removal, new construction or other alteration) shall maintain the spatial organization of the district and shall not have a significant negative impact on historic architectural or landscape elements, including structures, open spaces, green spaces, topography, walls and fences, circulation patterns including pedestrian circulation separated from vehicular traffic, viewsheds, park areas, play areas, courtyards and other landscaped areas previously accessible and usable in common, significant trees as defined in this by-law, and buffer areas. The existing spatial organization and land patterns of the landscape shall be preserved, including the curvilinear circulation patterns and views from roads, sidewalks, pathways and buildings. Significant negative impacts shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Removal or alteration of rock outcroppings greater than 200 square feet in contiguous area;
 - b. Alteration of existing grades by more than three feet in vertical height;

- c. Removal of existing pedestrian paths that separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic;
- d. Addition of new impervious surfaces within 100 feet of abutting properties, including the Hoar Sanctuary or single-family homes; and
- e. Loss of open space through building coverage exceeding 20% of the area of the district or through loss of the “greenbelt” now serving as a buffer to the abutting single-family detached homes.

Nothing in this Section 5.10.3.d.1 shall be construed as repealing or modifying any existing by-law or regulation of the Town, but it shall be in addition thereto. To the extent this Section 5.10.3.d.1 imposes greater restrictions upon a Reviewable Project than other by-laws, regulations or statutes, such greater restrictions shall prevail. The provisions of this Section 5.10.3.d.1 shall be deemed to be separable. If any of its provisions, subsections, sentences or clauses shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

PROPOSED HANCOCK VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

