

ITEM 2: 376 SOUTH COUNTY ROAD

OWNER: Church of Bethesda By The Sea

Several members disclosed ex-parte communications.

Emily Stillings, MurphyStillings, LLC, testified to the architecture and history of the Georgian Revival style building. Ms. Stillings pointed out the design features of the building. Ms. Stillings testified that the buildings met the following criteria for designation as a landmark:

Sec. 54-161 (1) Exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, county, or town; and,

Sec. 54-161 (3) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or is a specimen inherently valuable of the study of a period, style, method of construction, or use of Indigenous materials or craftsmanship,

Sect. 54-161 (4) Is representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual ability has been recognized or who influenced his age.

Ms. Patterson asked for confirmation on proof of publication. Ms. Mittner provided confirmation.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ives and was seconded by Ms. Albarran to make the designation report for 376 S. County Rd. part of the record. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.**

Ms. Patterson called for public comment.

Attorney Jamie Gavigan, representing Bethesda-by-the-Sea and the owner of the Church Mouse, opposed the designation on behalf of his client and discussed the reason for the opposition.

Beth Cole, 1193 N Lake Way, objected to the designation.

John Brim, treasurer of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, objected to the designation.

Jim Bertles, 226 Eden Road, objected to the designation.

Anne Pepper, 333 Seaspray Avenue, supported the designation.

Susan Beebe, Associate Rector of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, objected to the designation.

Aimee Sunny, The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, thought this was a quincennial John Volk property and agreed with the criteria stated by MurphyStillings, it reflected the changes in the architecture at the period, and believed the structure met the criteria.

Ms. Metzger confirmed that changes could be made to the building.

Ms. Patterson thought the church should embrace the designation. She thought it was a philanthropic thing to do for the Town of Palm Beach.

Ms. Fairfax did not believe the building was exceptional and she wondered if it was worthy of designation. She was not in favor of designation and did not believe the building was under threat.

Ms. Damgard thought there were benefits to landmarking homes and buildings. She thought the commission would work with any owner in renovations. She thought the building was important in the Town and should be landmarked.

Mr. Ives stated that the building would not be inhibited if it was landmarked and stated that the building was not landmarked because of the business in the building. He was not supportive of landmarking based on the criteria and did not believe the building was exemplary of John Volk's work. He was not in favor of designation.

Ms. Herzig-Desnick was in favor of designation and agreed with Ms. Sunny's recommendation that it was a good example of John Volk's work.

Ms. Albarran agreed that it met the three criteria listed and agreed with Ms. Sunny's assessment. She supported the designation.

Mr. Gavigan stated that Bethesda wanted to maintain flexibility. He asked if a motion were made, if it could include an approval of a second story. Town Attorney Lainey Francisco stated that it could not be included in the approval, but that option was always

open to applicants.

**A motion was made by Ms. Damgard and was seconded by Ms. Albarran to recommend 376 S. County Rd. to the Town Council for designation as a Landmark of the Town of Palm Beach based on criteria 1, 3, and 4 in Section 54-161 and with the acknowledgment that the owners of the buildings opposed the designation. The motion was carried 5-2, with Ms. Fairfax and Mr. Ives dissenting.**