

XI. DESIGNATION HEARINGS

1. ITEM 1: 126 ROOT TRAIL

Owner: Sheila McHenry and William McHenry

Several members disclosed ex-parte communications.

Janet Murphy, MurphyStillings, LLC, testified to the architecture and history of the Frame Vernacular residence. Ms. Murphy pointed out the design features of the residence. Ms. Murphy testified that the residence 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Ives and was seconded by Ms. Damgard to make the designation report for 126 Root Trail part of the record. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

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

Ms. Patterson called for public comment.

Aimee Sunny of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach advocated for the property's designation. She acknowledged the addition to the structure but thought the front retained much of the original Frame Vernacular character. She thought it met the criteria outlined by the consultants and was worthy of becoming a landmark, even with the alterations made.

Mr. Ives applauded the designation report. He thought it provided all the property details and helped the commission understand why the property met the criteria for landmarking. He further indicated that the property met the criteria in section 54-161 and added his support for the designation.

Ms. Damgard agreed with Mr. Ives. She thought that Root Trail was an important street in the Town.

Ms. Brooker explained one of the neighbors' concerns with the designation: the inability to rebuild their home if it was lost to a storm. She thought that landmarking the home allowed the home to be rebuilt as it was. That said,

she did not believe the house was in danger since the owners loved their home and the street. Ms. Brooker supported the designation.

Ms. Fairfax wondered how many homes on Root Trail were landmarked and how many were not; she thought Root Trail was significant to the Town. Ms. Murphy stated that she believed there were six current landmarked homes and acknowledged that others could be reviewed.

A motion was made by Ms. Damgard and was seconded by Mr. Ives to recommend 126 Root Trail to the Town Council for designation as a Landmark of the Town of Palm Beach based on criteria 1 and 3 in Section 54-161 and with the acknowledgment that the owners of the home object to the designation. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.