

**Northampton Historical Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE: Monday, January 25, 2016**  
**TIME: 5:30 PM**  
**PLACE: Hearing Room, City Hall Second Floor, 210 Main Street**

Members Present: David Drake, Pauline Fogel, Barbara Blumenthal, Martha Lyon, Dylan Gaffney, Craig Della Penna, Bruce Kriviskey

Staff Present: Sarah LaValley

Chairman Drake called the meeting to Order, 5:30

**General Public Comment**

Janet Gross stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will be hearing from the Clarke School regarding a sign in the historic district that seems to be too large.

Ms. LaValley added that signs meeting zoning requirements are not subject to local historic district review, so ZBA review is needed to determine if the sign meets zoning. This should have been done prior to the sign's being erected.

**Request for Support of CPA Application – First Churches Window Restoration**

Reverend Todd Weir stated that First Churches will be applying for CPA funds for restoration of the Tiffany, Rose, and other stained glass windows at First Churches. MassHistoric indicated that sale of the Tiffany window was not possible pursuant to the preservation restriction.

Ms. Fogel noted that the Church is a very public place with a lot of community use.

Mr. Kriviskey suggested that the window would lose a great deal of its story if removed from the church context, and suggested that making the Tiffany window more visible from the exterior would be beneficial.

Ms. Lyon asked about the windows' condition. Reverend Weir replied that the Tiffany is starting to buckle, and restoration will be more challenging the longer it is delayed.

Ms. Lyon noted that financial support for privately owned buildings can be a challenge to obtain, but that accessibility goes beyond just the congregation.

Ms. Gross noted that the window was originally donated by the Parsons family.

Ms. Lyon moved to support the CPA application. Mr. Kriviskey added that the window is a local treasure that happens to be housed in First Churches. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Request for Support of CPA Application – Leeds Civic Association Historic Signage**

Jason Johnson, Leeds Civic Association provided an overview of the historic self-guided tour for which a small CPA grant was applied. Signage will be graffiti and weather resistant, and will depict the history of the village. Ms. Blumenthal moved to determine the village of Leeds historically significant, and support the CPA application. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Review Proposed Work at historic Northampton, Pursuant to Preservation Restriction**

Nancy Rexford outlined work planned at Historic Northampton. This included:

Resetting the front step and 1985 porch entry at Damon House

Replacing the Damon house roof

Removing extra windows at the rear of Damon house

Replacing window sills at Parsons House

Removing a dryer vent at the rear ell of Parsons house

Replacing siding at Parsons house

Rehabilitation of the Shepherd Barn

Mr. Della Penna asked about possible programming uses for the barn. Ms. Rexford stated that dendrochronology will be done to determine age of the barn and whether it could have been part of the Parsons family buildings.

Ms. Lyon moved to approve all proposed work under the preservation restriction, as all is carefully planned to protect the buildings' historic character. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn – 7:10**