

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2016

TIME: 5:30 PM

PLACE: City Council Chambers,

Members Present: David Drake, Pauline Fogel, Barbara Blumenthal, Craig Della Penna, Bruce Kriviskey

Staff Present: Sarah LaValley

Chairman Drake called the meeting to Order, 5:30

General Public Comment

Janet Gross informed the Commission that the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the sign permit application for the sign on Round Hill, and it was removed.

Jane Rini expressed concern about projects that require local historic district permits that are not being reviewed by the Commission.

5:30 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness for chimney removal. 159 Elm Street, Parcel 31B-162. Kris Thomson, Applicant.

Kris Thomson stated that the chimney has already been removed. He did not realize that the chimney's being visible from Langworthy Terrace, but not Elm Street would still trigger Local Historic District review, and apologized for the error.

Mr. Della Penna suggested that an informational letter about the Local Historic District be sent to local contractors.

Mr. Kriviskey asked if a building permit is required for chimney removal. Ms. LaValley stated that it is not, but that a building permit was obtained for the interior work.

Mr. Kriviskey noted that a building permit is typically the trigger for a Local Historic District permit, but that this is challenging if a building permit is not necessary.

The Committee discussed construction dates of the ell and chimney, noting that these were later additions to the original structure.

Ms. LaValley noted that the work is subject to the Ordinance whether or not it has already occurred, and suggested that it be reviewed as if it was a proposal for planned work. Mr. Thomson stated that existing roof slate and copper were matched in the locations where the chimney was removed. Ms. Blumenthal noted that the work exactly matches existing materials, and since it is not a main chimney the application would likely have been approved. Ms. LaValley stated that if the Commission agrees that the work would have

been allowed, a certificate of appropriateness pursuant to the Ordinance and Design Standards should be issued. If not, the Commission can require that the chimney be reconstructed.

Ms. Blumenthal moved to issue a Certificate of appropriateness. Seconded by Mr. Kriviskey, the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission will consider ways to capture work that needs Local Historic District review for which building permits are not required.

6:00 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness for garage renovation. Proposed work include replacement of roof, windows, garage doors, and trim, and modifications to sidewalk and access. 83 Round Hill Road, Parcel 31B-005. Wright Builders, Applicant.

Roger Cooney, Wright Builders, provided an overview of the project. The copper roof will be replaced in-kind with different elevations, the chimney will be removed, and garage doors will be replaced. Windows will be double-hung on all sides, and the steam pipe enclosure on the property will be demolished.

The Commission agreed that the rear of the building is not visible from a public way and is not subject to review.

Mr. Kriviskey noted that the chimney is not functional,, and its removal will not create much of a visible alteration since it is not a character-defining element.

Mr. Della Penna asked about a vent stack for the bathroom. Mr. Cooney replied that the existing is cast iron, and this could be duplicated if required.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, with conditions that the vent be made of cast iron, and the existing building documented and photographs provided to Forbes Library. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

6:15 PM: Hearing to determine whether the house at 9 Pomeroy Terrace, map ID 32A-186 should be determined "Preferably Preserved" pursuant to the Northampton Demolition Ordinance, Chapter 161 of the General Code.

Matt Campagnari stated that he purchased the Shaw's property, and is planning condominiums on the site. He suggested that the building no longer fits in with the neighborhood, is in poor condition, and that there are better-preserved examples of the same type of house nearby.

Chairman Drake noted that many of that era and style of home in Northampton have been lost, and asked if there is any way to restore the structure and utilize it in the development.

Mr. Kriviskey stated that it was most likely constructed in the 1870's, and there are other workingmans vernacular hoes in Northampton. However, it is listed as a 'contributing structure' to the planned Pomeroy Terrace National Register district, and is part of the streetscape.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to determine the structure 'preferably preserved,' and impose a delay of up to one year. This could be shortened if an 'alternate plan' of development that also fits within the district is presented. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn - 7:04