

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2021
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

Member	Present
Vacancy	
Martha Lyon – Acting Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal	X
Pauline Fogel	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Vacancy	
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Ms. Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:32 PM

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blumenthal moved to approve the September 9 2020 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Comment

None

5:30 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed window replacement. Dallas Ducar and Perry Cohen/Pella Windows, 330 Elm Street, Map ID 31A-002.

Jonathan Schulz, Pella Windows, presented an overview of the proposed window replacement on behalf of the property owner. New windows with removable interior grilles are proposed. The house has 30-40 double hung windows, which will be upgraded to permanently affixed exterior molding from existing storm windows. Ms. Lyon read from the design guidelines, including criteria for replacement window muntin placement and appearance, and materials. Ms. Lyon asked if a condition assessment of the windows was completed, as they are proposed to be replaced wholesale. Mr. Schulz stated that a written assessment was not prepared, but the windows are all original to the home, are difficult to open and close, and some have broken panes or severed pulley ropes. Ms. Blumenthal asked if any windows are in repairable condition. Mr. Schulz stated that replacement is also being proposed for energy efficiency. Ms. Fogel asked if the affixed muntins will create the same number of panes as the original windows. Mr. Schulz replied that it will. Mr. Della Penna noted that Pella produces architectural windows that would meet the standards. Ms. Fogel expressed concern that interior divisions could be removed permanently. Ms. Blumenthal added that interior muntins do not create light divisions visible from the exterior. Mr. Gaffney stated that the guidelines are specific and clear.

Ms. Blumenthal moved to deny a certificate of appropriateness for the window replacement proposed, as the muntins do not meet the design guidelines. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission discussed information necessary to consider a certificate of hardship. Ms. Lyon stated that a condition assessment of the windows would be necessary, as some may be able to be repaired.

S106 Review, Old Springfield Road Bridge Replacement

The Commission discussed a proposed bridge replacement of a bridge that is currently closed seasonally but is necessary to provide agricultural field access. The Commission expressed support for historic documentation of the existing bridge, especially if a Works Progress Administration structure, and noted that the area is part of an historical agricultural landscape, so size and scale of the replacement is important.

Review Porch Replacement Pursuant to Historic Preservation Restriction – 52 Hatfield Street

Paul McCutcheon, McCutcheon Construction, discussed plans for deteriorated porch replacement with the Commission. The Commission asked for additional information about materials and designs proposed. The porch was added when first converted to a residence. Mr. Gaffney will look for historic photos of the structure when it served as a school.

Review of Mail

The Commission discussed an email from a Bay State Village resident regarding demolition delay and other concerns about development in the area. The Commission discussed the possibility of abutter notification for demolition delay. Ms. LaValley noted that a separate demolition application process and fee would need to be established if this were to be enacted, and that delays for all proposed demolitions would result. Residents can sign up to receive all historical commission agendas online.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM