

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, May 21 2018
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: City Hall Hearing Room, 210 Main Street

Member	Present
David Drake – Chair	X
Martha Lyon – Vice Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal	X
Pauline Fogel	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Bruce Kriviskey	X
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Chairman Drake called the meeting to Order, 5:32 PM

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blumenthal moved to approve the minutes of November 27, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously.

Review of Proposed Building Envelope Repairs at Historic Hampshire County Courthouse, 99 Main Street Pursuant to Historic Preservation Restriction

Todd Ford, Hampshire Council of Governments, provided an overview of planned work at the historic courthouse. The tower is the current focus, using funding from the state Division of Capital Asset Management, Northampton CPA and Town of Hatfield, with future phases to include the main roof. The historic windows at the top of the structure will be repaired; all others were previously replaced in 1973 and will be replaced again. The original finial will be replaced, and mortar cleaned and restored. Windows will be operable, the original hardware is likely still in place. The fountain will be restored in a later phase. Mr. Kriviskey noted that several of the current windows are glaring and blank, and is happy they will be replaced. Ms. Lyon asked if the slate roof will be matched. Mr. Ford replied that new slate will be required, but the COG hopes to obtain it from the same location as the original slate.

Ms. LaValley noted that the work proposed qualifies as ‘major’ work under the Preservation Restriction soon to be held by the City, so Historical Commission approval would be required. Ms. Lyon moved to approve the work pursuant to the draft restriction. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously.

5:45 PM, Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for building renovation. Work to deck construction, window and door replacement and new lighting. Patrick & Karen Lonsway, 337 Elm Street, Parcel 24C-045.

Roy Giangregorio and Pat Lonsway provided an overview of work proposed to the side and rear of a 1911 Colonial Revival. Most work will be done on a 1960's addition that did not respect the building's architecture.

Two windows in the rear of the building are proposed to be replaced with a sliding glass door. This will have artificial divisions but will face the backyard. Code now requires lighting, which is proposed to match the fixture on the front of the house.

Chairman Drake reviewed applicable guidelines, noting that a fence currently blocks view from Woodlawn Avenue, but the application should be evaluated as if all landscaping were absent. Mr. Kriviskey noted that the work proposed is for the most part confined to the addition rather than the original structure, and will have low visibility from the street. Mr. Giangregorio noted that Sylvia Plath rented an upstairs room, and interior work is planned to restore original appearance and fixtures.

Chairman Drake noted that synthetic materials are proposed for the deck and railing, and asked if the difference in material would be noticeable. Mr. Kriviskey noted that the railing is molded so will have a shadow line. Mr. Della Penna stated that he is generally in favor of wood, but the synthetic materials here will have limited visibility.

The Commission discussed vinyl lattice under the deck, and agreed that it will need to be properly installed within a frame to create more depth and shadowlines. Ms. Lyon expressed concern about visibility of the deck from Elm Street. Mr. Giangregorio presented a line of sight rendering.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to issue a certificate of applicability for the work as proposed, with conditions requiring staff review and approval of final balusters, handrail and lattice work for appropriate texture. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried 6-1, with an abstention by Ms. Lyon.

Review of Proposed Driveway Reconfiguration at Historic Northampton Pursuant to Historic Preservation Restriction

Laurie Sanders, co-executive director, provided an overview of proposed work. The existing parking lot is much too large and experiences ponding problems. Additional greenspace is proposed. There are also safety issues when exiting the driveway, and Historic Northampton would like to shift it approximately eight feet. This would also create a safe walking space for children going to the Bridge Street School. An unused curbcut at the Parsons House will also be removed. This will go back to a more historic pattern, reducing size of the 1980's parking lot. Ms. Lyon suggested a comprehensive study for more understanding of water sources and soils.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to approve the work pursuant to the Historic Preservation Restriction held by the City. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously.

Preservation Awards 2018 Recap

The Commission thanked Ms. Blumenthal and Chairman Drake for their work on the event. Chairman Drake will present Leeds Civic with their award at their next meeting on June 12.

Other business not foreseen when agenda was prepared

Ms. LaValley stated that the historic gravestone restoration project was approved by City Council at first reading, and that the Department of the I

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM