

**Northampton Historical Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 29, 2021  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Remote Online Meeting

Member	Present
Martha Lyon, Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal, Vice-Chair	X
Jonathan Daube	X
Pauline Fogel	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Harvey Hill	X
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Ms. Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:31 PM

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Blumenthal moved to approve the February 24 2021 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote, with three abstentions.

**Public Comment**

None

**Elect Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Gaffney moved to elect Ms. Lyon as Chair, and Ms. Blumenthal as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

**5:30 PM: Continuation. 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.**

Ms. Fogel noted that restoration is more expensive than replacement, but that the Commission should be consistent with the guidelines, which are clear. Ms. Lyon noted that a full assessment of restoration was not provided as discussed. Ms. Blumenthal stated that wood windows are character-defining, and that energy issues could be addressed via an alternate method. The Elm Street facing windows, at least, should be attempted to be repaired. Mr. Della Penna suggested that a MassSave energy audit could be completed to look at other energy conservation measures, and noted that vinyl windows can also fail. Mr. Gaffney noted that the information provided regarding window repair was general, and not specific to the house. Ms. Lyon stated that she attended a Preservation League of New York State webinar on window repair, and it provided examples of how lead can be encapsulated. Older windows are longer-lasting than modern due in part to the wood they were constructed with.

Ms. Blumenthal moved to deny a certificate of appropriateness for the work proposed, finding that it does not meet the Design Standards. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **VAMC Proposed Modifications Review - exterior walls and roof to new addition to existing Building 7**

Josee Goldin, VAMC, provided an overview of the project, which is currently in the development stage. Details are also being worked through the VA Historic Committee. A Section 106 filing has not yet been made; the Commission is being consulted prior to that step. Ms. LaValley provided an overview of the Section 106 filing process. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies, and projects that include federal funding, to consider impacts to historic properties. The Commission discussed construction details and design elements, suggesting that the final design include more differentiation in color to separate new sections from old.

### **Commission Roles and Responsibilities Overview: Demolition Review**

#### **St. John's Cantius History Discussion**

The Commission reviewed the Demolition Ordinance and how it is applied. Public comment was made regarding concern that the Central Business Architecture Committee (CBAC) does not take historic aspects of buildings into account during their reviews of proposed demolitions within the Central Business district, specifically with regard to the proposed demolition of St. John Cantius Church. The CBAC has guidelines and review considerations that are different from those of the Historical Commission

Jonathan moved to provide a comment letter to the CBAC regarding the historic importance of St. John Cantius. Seconded by Ms. Blumenthal, the motion carried unanimously. The Commission encouraged residents to participate in the historic preservation plan outreach sessions, if it is funded through the Community Preservation Act.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM