

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 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	
Dylan Gaffney	X
Harvey Hill	X
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Martha Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:31 PM

Public Comment

None

Chairs Report

Martha stated that CPA funding for the historic preservation plan, Historic Northampton balustrade and Shepherd barn work, and Lilly Library step repair was recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

Bridge Street Cemetery fence and gate work is nearly complete. A dedication of the State Hospital Memorial Park is scheduled for June 5; plantings and signage will be installed over the summer.

5:30 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed roof, door, and window replacement and modification, and roof HVAC work as part of major building renovation. Trustees of Smith College, 33 Elm Street, Map ID 31B-253.

The hearing was called to order at 5:38 PM.

Gary Hartwell provided an overview of the overall project. Martha noted that much of the work is outside jurisdiction of local historic district review.

Chris Couse, KPMB architects, stated that some exterior elements are starting to deteriorate, interior renovation is also proposed. HVAC, lighting, and communication work will all be done. Window replacement, removal of a rooftop air conditioner, and a new copper mansard roof dormer to hide mechanicals. Window grilles will not be removable, and windows will have a spacer bar. A false chimney will be repurposed to serve a kitchen below. Sprinklers will be added, and a fire escape rebuilt. Martha noted that the Elm-street facing door seems more modern than is appropriate to the building, and expressed concern about removal of the carved wood original door. Reduction of the glass panel could make the door appear more congruous.

Jonathan moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for the work as presented. Seconded by Harvey. Martha suggested a more elongated door design. Craig suggested that a follow-up presentation to the Commission of a door that emphasizes vertical lines. Jonathan accepted this as an amendment to his motion. Seconded by Harvey. The motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with one abstention.

Florence Proposed National Register District Update

Steve Strimer provided an overview/recap of the project. The Commission discussed the process, next steps, and the meaning of National Register listing.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM