

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, May 2, 2022
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

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

Martha Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:30 PM

Public Comment

None

Chair’s Report

Martha stated that the Community Preservation Committee recommending funding of both the Laurel Park signage and Historic Northampton Shepherd Barn projects to City Council. Craig Della Penna will be stepping down from the Commission as the Realtors’ Association nominee.

Approval of Minutes

August 30, 2021, November 1, 2021.

Steve moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Jonathan, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Historic Northampton Projects Update

Laurie Sanders stated that the Community Preservation Committee has recommended funding for the final round of Shepherd Barn work; this will allow the building to be opened to the public as exhibit and performance space. Restoration of large historic signs is underway and those will be returned to the barn for display. The archaeological dig did not recover significant items. Some tree removal was necessary; the wood will be used for benches and art. Timber framing will be completed with professional framer Alicia Spence and the help of volunteers. The building will be made accessible, and a new garden shed is planned. Laurie encouraged Commissioners to visit.

Update on Historic Preservation Plan

Sarah stated that five proposals were received, and Barrett Planning Group has been engaged

Other business not foreseen when agenda was prepared

Martha noted that the Community Preservation Committee also recommended funding for a housing project at the former Northampton Nursing Home. The building will be reused. It has been vacant for many years and has had lots of vandalism.

O'Connell Hawley's application for the former St. John Cantius church was not acted upon at this time; additional information is needed regarding the historical appropriateness of the work. An historic structures report and historical commission review were requested.

Debra Bercuvitz asked about the preservation planning process. Steve noted that outreach and intergovernmental coordination were outlined within the scope, and that an outside consultant will be able to provide perspective and examples.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM