

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, May 24, 2021
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

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

Martha Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:33 PM

Public Comment

Amy Martin encouraged preservation of the archaeological site on Hatfield Street.
Fred Zimnoch encouraged the Commission to continue historic cemetery preservation.
Violet Nolan, Pelham, encouraged preservation of the archaeological site.
John Skibiski noted that that the Historical Commission’s Section 106 comment on the roundabout project was issued before archeological artifacts were discovered.
Marvin Ward stated that St. John’s Church would make a good concert/recital hall, a resource which does not exist in the Connecticut River Valley.

Approval of Minutes

Jonathan moved to approve the March 29 minutes. Seconded by Barbara, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairs Report

Martha noted that a dedication for the State Hospital Memorial Park will be held in June
The Hatfield Street Roundabout project was cancelled by MassDOT; the Commission can provide comment on future plans.
Pauline Fogel has stepped down from the Commission.
Mark Andrews, Wampanoag Aquinnah Tribe, suggested that the Commission revisit the previous finding of no adverse impact.
Joe Graveline, Northfield Historical Commission, noted past use of the Hatfield Street area by Native Americans.

5:30 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed chimney removal, railing removal and eave modification. Trustees of Smith College, 41-45 Elm Street, Chase-Duckett House, Map ID 31B-224.

Laura Fitch stated that the project will primarily be reroofing, the flat section of roof is not visible from Elm Street except for the railing, which is proposed to be removed.

The mansard roof eave will be thickened to accommodate insulation, but a rendering of the final appearance has not been developed. Chimney removal is no longer planned. It is unknown when the flat roof and railing were added. The Commission discussed a possible date of the addition; the building was acquired by Smith College in 1968. The Design Standards specify that original elements should be retained.

Barbara moved to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, with a condition that the applicant demonstrate that the railing is not an original element of the building. Seconded by Craig, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote, with one abstention.

The Commission agreed that a hardship could potentially be considered if the railing is original.

Review Elm-street facing door design, 33 Elm Street, Map ID 31B-253

Review of the Elm-street facing door design was a condition of the Certificate of Appropriateness. Changes to the door frame are necessary to comply with ADA requirements. The door is proposed to be reduced from 42 to 38 inches. The top decorative grille will be restored, corner epaulets, trim, and a solid wood bottom panel will all be added. Martha suggested consideration of fluted trim to the sidelights. Jonathan moved to approve the design, with sidelights at the discretion of the architect. Seconded by Criag, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote, with one abstention.

Request to Review S106 Decision, Hatfield Street Roundabout

Martha noted that the Commission will take the archaeological site into account when reviewing any future projects submitted as part of Section 106 review.

Greg Skibiski insisted that the Commission take another vote due to new information.

Harvey moved to rescind the earlier letter, and comment that the project as previously proposed would have an adverse impact on the archaeological site. Martha added that this is in agreement with the finding of adverse impact that has already been made by MassDOT and MassHistoric. The motion carried unanimously. Mark Andrews suggested that it is also in agreement with federally recognized consulting tribes. Harvey moved this addition, Seconded by Jonathan, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM