

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, October 25, 2021
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

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

Martha Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:36 PM

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

None

Chairs Report

Martha stated that the Memorial Park is now complete, with planting done in October. Barbara asked about the status of the fountain following some mechanical issues. Sarah replied that it may have been shut off for the winter.

5:30 PM: Continuation - Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed window, door, and roof replacement, and chapel shell removal. SNEC Association of SDA, 354 Elm Street, Map IDs 31A-001, 23C-043.

Larry Tuttle, architect, stated that the team had the opportunity to do some historic research regarding the origins of the church and formation of the parish, and have submitted supplemental plans and information. The clerestory elements are now proposed to be retained. The building is experiencing mold and leaks that need to be addressed, and the roof must be replaced. A durable metal roof is proposed. Some windows are below ground-level and have limited visibility, and these are proposed to be replaced to stop water incursion. Sanctuary windows had initially been proposed to have an exterior storm panel with matching detail, but it was recently discovered that the sills had been converted to sheet metal and the wood below had become damaged. Leaded glass windows are proposed to be removed so they don't become more damaged, and adhered to a sheet of plain glass if necessary. It is anticipated to be challenging to find anyone to work on the windows in-place. Current aluminum doors are not original to the structure, and more insulating aluminum doors are proposed. The 'contemplative niche' accessory structure was added in the late 1900's, and was built for a Catholic statue that was removed prior to the current

owner's purchase. This is proposed to be demolished. True dormers are proposed to be incorporated into the roof structure, which is proposed to be metal with low reflectivity. These elements include a great deal of flashing, and have a metal appearance currently. Martha asked if gray shingles were considered. Larry replied that the congregation would prefer metal for longevity. The Commission discussed the exterior doors; these appear to predate the creation of the district. Larry stated that wooden doors would be cost prohibitive. Larry provided additional detail on the sanctuary windows, sills will be refurbished. Some windows were retrofitted to be vented and have a different appearance. Jonathan moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for all of the work proposed. Seconded by Harvey. Barbara stated that the basement windows and crèche removal comply with the standards, but she has concern about the new aluminum doors. Stained glass retention is noted as mandatory in the guidelines. Jonathan stated that he is sensitive to cost limitations. Harvey suggested that he would prefer wooden doors in visible areas. Steve stated that dormers and roof appearance are especially critical. Craig expressed support for reuse of the building, and not a demolition proposal or demolition by neglect. The motion failed, 3-3. Jonathan moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for half shell crèche removal and basement window work as proposed. Seconded by Harvey, the motion carried unanimously. Martha suggested that roof texture be investigated; the proposed metal roof is smooth and not in character with the district. A stained glass condition assessment is also needed. The Commission agreed that additional financial information would also be helpful if work is not proposed to meet the standards. Harvey moved to continue the hearing until 4:00 on November 1. Seconded by Barbara, the motion carried unanimously.

Section 106 Review – Main Street Complete Streets

No discussion

Discuss Local Historic District Design Guidelines Updates

Sarah stated that the 2012 guidelines were not approved by Council, and they will need to be incorporated into the Ordinance. Members will review to see if any changes or updates are necessary prior to seeking Council approval.

Designate Preservation Plan Subcommittee

Barbara moved to designate a subcommittee consisting of Barbara, Steve and Martha. Seconded by Harvey, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM