

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

**October 15, 2020**

**CITY HALL\***

**Commission Members Participating:** Mark Wamback, Chair  
Randolph Bloom  
Diane Long  
Tomi Stefani  
Janet Theerman  
Erika Helnarski, Alternate

**Commission Members Not Participating:** Devon Kurtz, Vice-Chair

**Staff Members Participating:** Stephen Rolle, Division of Planning and Regulatory Services  
Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning and Regulatory Services

\*Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was conducted through remote participation. The meeting was livestreamed from the City of Worcester website and via the local cable access channel and is available for streaming online. Public participation was facilitated through a call-in number, 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191#), which was publicized on the posted meeting agenda and during the video broadcast.

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**CALL COMMISSION TO ORDER**

The Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Wamback at 5:35 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**October 1, 2020:** The approval of minutes was held until the October 29, 2020 meeting.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Certificate of Appropriateness & Building Demolition Delay Waiver**

1. **220 Salisbury Street – HC-2020-038 (MBL 20-007-0030A)**  
Petitioner: Erjona Mehillaj  
Year Built: 1952  
Historic Status: MACRIS listed; listed on the State Register of Historic Places; within the Montvale Local Historic District (LHD)  
Petition Purpose:
    - Redesign front exterior concrete stairs and front walkway (retroactive)
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The applicant did not call in to the meeting. Ms. Johnstone tried to get ahold of the applicant unsuccessfully, and the Commission took the other business items out of order to allow the applicant time to call in.

Prior to adjournment, on a motion made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 to postpone the item to the October 29, 2020 meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Certificate of Appropriateness**

#### **2. 24 Oxford Street – HC-2020-071 (MBL 20-005-00001)**

Petitioner: Candace Haddad

Year Built: N/A (vacant parcel)

Historic Status: Within the Crown Hill Local Historic District (LHD)

Petition Purpose:

- Remove a non-historic stockade fence and replace it with a similar stockade fence (partially retroactive)

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*No public comment.*

Candace Haddad, the owner of 24 Oxford Street, spoke on behalf of the application. She stated that she removed a rotted stockade fence and she plans on putting a stockade fence back. She noted that there was a fire next door, and that more of the fence was remove. She also noted that her yard and driveway was damaged as a result of the fire.

Ms. Johnstone stated that the applicant was given permission to fix the driveway and yard given the circumstances of the fire. As far as the fence, the applicant is proposing to install a new, very similar stockade fence.

Chair Wamback noted that the stockade fence was installed in 1989. Ms. Johnstone stated that that is correct, and that the only reason the application was being reviewed by the Commission is because it is in a Local Historic District.

The Commission had no comment on the application.

Ms. Haddad noted that the original fence is still intact.

*No public comment.*

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 that the proposed changes of replacing the stockade fence panels at 24 Oxford Street are appropriate for the Crown Hill Local Historic District, thus approving the Certificate of Appropriateness.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 that the proposed demolition at 24 Oxford Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester, thus approving the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

*Note:* Although a vote was taken for Building Demolition Delay, it was not required as no demolition of historic fabric was proposed, and the vote was omitted from the decision.

### **List of Exhibits**

*Exhibit A: Certificate of Appropriateness application, dated and received September 15, 2020.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Correspondence from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) announcing the beginning of the FY2021 Survey and Planning Grant cycle.

No comment.

- B. Notice from William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth; and Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) to Julian Wade announcing the listing of the Printer's Building to the National Register of Historic Places; National Register Nomination for the Printer's Building; Certificate of Listing; and "The National Register of Historic Places: Effects and Benefits of Listing."

Ms. Johnstone stated that the Commission has received multiple communications concerning the listing of the Printer's Building to the National Register of Historic Places, noting that it is an excellent example of preservation in Worcester and that it is exciting to see it listed.

- C. Invitation to comment on collocation of antennas on top of 55 Union Street by Verizon Wireless (Section 106).

On a motion by Chair Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 to not issue comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.