

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

March 4, 2021

CITY HALL*

Commission Members Participating: Mark Wamback, Chair
Devon Kurtz, Vice-Chair
Diane Long, Clerk
Janet Theerman
Randolph Bloom (items 2-4)
Erika Helnarski, Alternate

Commission Members Not Participating: Tomi Stefani

Staff Members Participating: Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services
Stephen Rolle, Division of Planning & 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 is available for streaming online. Public participation was facilitated through a call-in number, 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191#), and link (<https://cow.webex.com/meet/historicalcommissionwebex>), which were publicized on the posted meeting agenda and during the video broadcast.

CALL COMMISSION TO ORDER

The Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Wamback at 5:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2021: On a motion by Commissioner Kurtz and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve (Commissioner Wamback abstaining).

February 21, 2021: On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve (Commissioner Kurtz abstaining).

NEW BUSINESS

Certificate of Non-Applicability

1. 7 Oxford Street – HC-2020-098 (MBL 03-025-00004)

Petitioner: Don Pham

Year Built: ca. 1846

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register of Historic Places (SR); National Register District (NRDIS); Positive National Register Opinion of Eligibility; Crown Hill LHD, FKA Henry P. Howe House

Petition Purpose:

- Replace four windows on side of house

Michelle Johnstone described that this property recently received a Certificate of Appropriateness and Demolition Delay Waiver for replacement of windows with six-over-six aluminum clad wood replacement windows. However, four small windows on the side of the building are too small to accommodate 6/6. Ms. Johnstone explained that these windows could be replaced with the same window replacement units as recently approved, but in one-over-one and three-over-three grid patterns matching the current windows.

No public comment.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue a certificate of non-applicability to 7 Oxford Street for replacement of three one-over-one windows and one three-over-three window with replacement windows matching the appearance and specifications of those recently approved with a Certificate of Appropriateness, but in one-over-one and three-over-three patterns replicating the existing window grids.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A. Certificate of Non-Applicability application dated February 22, 2021, and received February 24, 2021.

Commission Bloom joined the meeting.

Building Demolition Delay Waiver

2. 134 Gold Street – HC-2021-007 (MBL 05-012-0006A)

Petitioner: Paul Giorgio

Year Built: 1892

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register of Historic Places; National Register of Historic Places District; National Register of Historic Places Multiple Resource Area, FKA Whitcomb Press Manufacturing Company Factory, and Whitcomb–Blaisdell Machine Tool Company

Petition Purpose:

- Replace windows
- Eliminate select openings
- Convert window to door

Paul Giorgio, applicant, presented the proposed project, which involves removal of existing windows and daylighting of former window openings to facilitate installation of new replacement window units

Dan Benoit, architect, provided additional information concerning the specific window units and work proposed, and noted that the proposed work was reviewed and approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in relation to the historic tax credit program.

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 5-0 that the proposed demolition at 134 Gold Street Salisbury Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester, and thus approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A: Building Demolition Delay Waiver application dated and received February 8, 2021.

3. 128 Providence Street – HC-2021-008 (MBL 05-038-0000A)

Petitioner: Matt Urban o/b/o City of Worcester

Year Built: 1923

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; Positive opinion of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, FKA St. Vincent Hospital Nurses Home

Petition Purpose:

- Replace windows
- Convert one window into a door
- Install new louvers, card reader, and floodlight
- Install new exterior MEP implements

Matt Urban, city of Worcester, provided an overview of the petition. Mr. Urban explained that the purpose of the project was to rehabilitate a portion of 128 Providence Street to facilitate expansion of additional facilities associated with the neighboring Senior Center.

Ms. Johnstone clarified the portions of work under purview, which includes window replacement, conversion of a window opening to a door, and other minor modifications to the exterior.

Commissioner Bloom noted that the modification were minor and necessary to make the building usable. Commissioner Long expressed concurrence. Commissioner Long noted that the windows selected were appropriate and attractive.

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 demolition at 128 Providence Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester, and thus approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A: Building Demolition Delay Waiver application dated February 10, 2021, and received February 11, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Communication from the MHC to the City of Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks regarding comments pertaining to the proposed Worcester Common Improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Wambach and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.