

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

**March 13, 2008
CHASE BUILDING, 44 FRONT STREET, WORCESTER
SUITE 300 – CONFERENCE ROOM**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Thomas Constantine, Vice- Chair
James Crowley
Michael Theerman
Janet Merrill

Staff Present: Judy Stolberg, Planning and Regulatory Services

REGULAR MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the February 28, 2008 meeting were accepted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **11 Euclid Avenue (HC-08-05) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Krystyna Gawrych, through a translator, Tom Stomski, said the dwelling had been damaged by a fire and while repairing the damage, she wanted to do the following work; (1) repair roof by replacing damaged sheets of plywood and damaged shingles; (2) repair siding with matching color siding; (3) replace internal support posts as needed; (4) replace windows and doors as needed; (5) demolish front porch on first floor and rebuild to previous condition; (6) replace window on second floor porch and enclose remaining side walls with vinyl siding; and (7) replace window on third floor porch with window of similar shape with colonial grills. Ms. Gawrych wanted to eliminate one living room window on each of three floors (side of house) in order to eliminate glare on television screens and change the size of the windows in the front bay on all three floors. She also wanted to replace two windows with a large triple pane window in the kitchen on all three floors. Commissioner Theerman said the changes would be detrimental to the character of the house. Chair Schneider said new fenestrations would be very expensive but felt it was Ms. Gawrych's choice if that was what she wanted to do. Commissioner Constantine said they might as well do this work now while they are working to repair the fire damage anyway. Commissioner Theerman said that while it was structurally possible, some of the proposed work was inappropriate. Relative to changing the size of the windows in the front bay, upon a

motion by Commissioner Constantine and seconded by Commissioner Crowley, the Commission voted 3-2 (Commissioner Theerman and Commissioner Merrill voted no) that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and since four affirmative votes are required, the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was not approved. Relative to replacing two windows in the kitchen with large triple pane windows on all three floors, upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 3-2 (Commissioner Theerman and Commissioner Merrill voted no) that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and since four affirmative votes are required, the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was not approved. Relative to eliminating the windows in the living room on the side of the house on all three floors, upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 1-4 (Commissioner Schneider, Commissioner Theerman, Commissioner Crowley and Commissioner Merrill voted no) that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and since four affirmative votes are required, the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was not approved. Relative to the following: (1) repairing the roof by replacing damaged sheets of plywood and damaged shingles; (2) repairing siding with matching color siding; (3) replacing internal support posts as needed; (4) demolishing front porch on first floor and rebuilding to previous condition; (5) replacing window on second floor porch and enclosing remaining side walls with vinyl siding; and (7) replacing window on third floor porch with window of similar shape with colonial grills, upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Merrill, the Commission voted 5-0 that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was approved for those items.

Upon further discussion, the applicant agreed to maintain the current fenestrations for the front bay windows and the side living room windows, but Ms. Gawrych was upset about the kitchen windows and said she really wanted to remodel the kitchens and really wanted to do it while the other work was being done. Chair Schneider said she could submit a new application for an economic hardship but could start work on the roof and any work on the right side of the house. Mr. Stomski said the kitchen remodeling was important to Ms. Gawrych and in order to accomplish it, the windows needed to be changed to accommodate installation of new appliances as part of the new layout. Commissioner Merrill said she had not understood that the kitchens were going to be totally remodeled. Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Crowley, the Commission voted 5-0 that the applicant had an economic hardship relative to replacing two windows in the kitchen with large triple pane windows on all three floors. Relative to the revised proposal, upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Merrill, the Commission voted 5-0 that the proposed work would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was approved. All work was approved with the explicit

understanding that the current fenestrations on the front bay and on the side living room windows would be maintained and that replacement of two kitchen windows on each floor with a triple window would be allowed.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. **Local Historic District Study Committee – Proposed Expansion Montvale Local Historic District Public Hearing:** Chair Schneider informed the Commission that the meeting held by the Economic Development Subcommittee would be on March 24, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. He said all Commissioners would be invited to attend but attendance was not mandatory

3. **Communication From EBI Consulting – One Envelope Terrace & 19 McKeon Road:** EBI is seeking comments relative to the placement of telecommunications facilities at these two addresses. Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 5-0 to advise EBI Consulting that it has no objection to the placement of a telecommunications facility at One Envelope Terrace. Upon a motion by Commissioner Constantine and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to advise EBI Consulting that it has no objection to the placement of a telecommunications facility at 19 McKeon Road.

Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:50 P.M.