



# The City of **WORCESTER**

Historical Commission

Diane Long, Chair  
Janet Theerman, Vice Chair  
Steven Taylor, Clerk  
Devon Kurtz  
Donald Northway  
Erika Helnarski  
Tomi Stefani  
Vanessa Andre, Alternate

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

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Worcester City Hall - Levi Lincoln Chamber,  
with remote participation options available via Webex online at  
<https://cityofworchester.webex.com/meet/historicalcommissionwebex> and  
call-in number 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191).

**Commissioners Present:** Diane Long, Chair  
Janet Theerman, Vice-Chair  
Erika Helnarski  
Devon Kurtz  
Donald Northway  
Tomi Stefani  
Vanessa Andre, Alternate

**Commissioners Absent:** Devon Kurtz  
Steven Taylor

**Staff Present:** Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services (DPRS)

**Call Commission to Order** – 5:30 PM

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted five in favor and zero opposed to approve the minutes of September 7, 2023. Commissioner Stefani did not vote due to his absence at that meeting.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six in favor and zero opposed to approve the minutes of October 19, 2023. Commissioner Stefani did not vote due to his absence at that meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Building Demolition Delay Waiver**

##### **1. 657 Millbury Street (10-013-00016) – BDDW-23-57**

###### ***Petition purpose: Replace windows***

Wayne McDonnell, the owner of 657 Millbury Street, joined the meeting remotely to discuss his petition. He stated that he would like to install new windows.

Chair Long asked if any original windows remained, or if replacement windows were being replaced. Mr. McDonnell stated that he would say they are replacement windows.

Ms. Johnstone stated that she had the opportunity to visit the house and found that the majority of the windows appear to be mid-to-late-20<sup>th</sup> century wood replacement windows. She also stated that there are a few metal or vinyl windows in place as well on one side of the house, and that there appears to be one original wood window in place in the rear elevation.

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Chair Long asked if all the windows would be made to match as part of this project. Ms. Johnstone affirmed that this would be the case. They went on to discuss the proposed grid pattern, which will consist primarily of 6/1 windows.

*Public comment: None.*

On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed to close public comment.

*On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed that 657 Millbury Street no longer retains architectural integrity sufficient for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and granted a leave to withdraw without prejudice to the application.*

## **2. 12 Millbury Street (05-008-00011) – BDDW-23-58**

### ***Petition purpose: Remove chimney***

A representative of the project appeared, in person at the meeting to discuss the proposal with the Commission. He stated that there are currently two chimneys at the building, only one of which is in use. He stated that the plan was to remove the unused chimney at the recommendation of a building inspector. He stated that the chimney would be capped and covered with asphalt shingles.

Chair Long asked how much of the chimney was visible. The Commission reviewed photos, and noted that it was not highly visible.

*Public comment: None.*

On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed to close public comment.

*On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed that the proposed demolition at 12 Millbury Street, consisting of removing one chimney would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester. Having gained a unanimous affirmative vote, the motion passed and a Building Demolition Delay Waiver for 12 Millbury Street was thus approved.*

### **Communications**

- A. Request from Epsilon Associates for updated letters of support for Walker Shoe Factory – 28 Water Street, Second State Mutual Company – 340 Main Street, Ransom Taylor Block – 526 Main Street, Kane Building – 204 Main Street, Sargent Card Clothing Company – 300 Southbridge Street.

On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six in favor and zero opposed to issue updated letters of support.

- B. Request from Epsilon Associates for new letters of support for Worcester Five Cents Savings Bank – 316 Main Street and Clark Block (former Shack's Building) – 401–409 Main Street.

On a motion made by Vice-Chair Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Northway, the Commission voted six in favor and zero opposed to issue a new letter of support.

### **Other Business**

- A. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Academy training

Ms. Johnstone asked that members of the Commission please let her know when they had completed the training.

Ms. Johnstone presented a certificate of appreciation to Commissioner Stefani, and thanked him for his service on the Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Long, the Commission voted six (6) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:50 p.m.