

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
MAY 25, 2006
418 MAIN STREET, SUITE 400**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Tom Johnson, Vice-Chair
Thomas Conroy, Clerk
Michael Theerman
Sally Jablonski

Staff Present: Lara Bold, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

REGULAR MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the May 11, 2006 minutes with the following amendment: that the minutes reflect that the windows on the Armsby Building at 144-146 Main Street had already been removed and replaced.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **17 Southgate Place Demolition:** Scheduled Update June 8, 2006.
2. **Massachusetts Trial Court – Gilman Display** – Chair Schneider gave an update on the Massachusetts Trial Court. He stated that the Bar Association would like to re-guild the Lady of Justice Statue and that, like the Commission, they would like to relocate the statue from its proposed location between the two restrooms.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

3. **15 Stoneland Road (HC-06-07) Building Demolition Delay Permit:** Kwan Do, Quin do, petitioners, and their contractor, presented the petition. The applicant indicated that the dormers, which were leaking, would be removed and that the current aluminum siding would be replaced with vinyl siding. Commissioner Theerman noted that the dormers were out of place and may not be part of the original structure. The applicant agreed to keep the fixed transom lites on the windows but preferred, for financial reasons, that the windows be redone with six over six panes, instead of the current eight over eight panes. The contractor

indicated that the first floor porch is rotten and that the petitioners would like to enclose the front porch. Commissioner Theerman noted that two other houses in the neighborhood had enclosed their front porches. Chair Schneider and Commissioner Johnson expressed concern with enclosing the front porch which would take away an important historical element of the house and suggested faux columns or corner posts of at least six to eight inches to maintain a vertical element for the porch. The Commission agreed that the number of windows to be removed and replaced was reasonable. Chair Schneider expressed concern with the proposed narrow window casing. The petitioners stated that they would keep the upstairs semi-circular window and would use wider window casings. Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, *the Commission found that the proposed demolition of the designated historic building at 15 Stoneland Road would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage or resources of the City of Worcester* and approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver 5-0 with the following conditions: 1.) That the applicant use six over six windows, 2.) That the applicant use 3-4 inch casings on the windows, and 3.) That the applicant explore the possibility of adding a stronger vertical element for the porch such as faux columns.

4. **12 Germain Street (HC-06-08) Building Demolition Delay Permit:** David Thoreen presented the petition. Mr. Thoreen indicated that he would like to replace the front porch and that he will hire Coldwells Mill Shop in Berlin to make new railings and replace the decking. He also stated he would keep the porch pitched and will maintain the freeze boards below the fascia boards. Commissioner Theerman suggested that the petitioner use mahogany for the columns. Commissioner Theerman left at 6:30 p.m. and expressed support for the petition. Commissioner Johnson questioned whether the side porch roof was sagging. The petitioner stated it was the gutters. The petitioner stated he would come back before the Commission before removing any siding or making any other exterior improvements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, *the Commission found that the proposed demolition of the designated historic building at 12 Germain Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage or resources of the City of Worcester* and approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. **Fire Alarm Telegraph Building** – The Commission agreed that a 5:30 p.m. walk-through on June 14, 2006 would be acceptable.
6. **253 Providence Street – Wireless Telecommunications Proposal:** Commissioner Jablonski expressed concern with the prospect of a number of these poles being erected in the Quinsigamond Village area. Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Jablonski, the Commission voted 4-0 to send a brief letter indicating the Commission had reviewed the proposal and suggested camouflaging the pole as much as possible in a way that would take into consideration the future development of the Quinsigamond Village neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peter Schneider adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.