

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

**January 10, 2008  
CHASE BUILDING, 44 FRONT STREET, WORCESTER  
SUITE 300 – CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

**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 December 27, 2007 meeting were accepted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. 131 Vernon Street (HC-07-60) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Robert Gasser, representative for the applicant, stated they are seeking a Building Demolition Delay Waiver to do the following work: (a) remove and replace all windows with double hung vinyl windows; (b) remove and replace the damaged area of the roof with same type of architectural shingles; and (c) remove and repair vinyl siding damaged by fire. Chair Schneider asked if they were leaving the shutters intact. Mr. Gasser responded that they would be leaving the shutters and basically the house will look the same as before the fire. Upon reviewing the petition submitted for the (a) removal and replacement of all windows with double hung vinyl windows; (b) removal and replacement of the damaged area of the roof with same type of architectural shingles; and (c) removal and repair of vinyl siding damaged by fire, and all evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 4-0 that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.
  
- 2. 5 Mason Court (HC-07-61) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Bruce Mitchell, owner of the property, stated he is seeking a Building Demolition Delay Waiver to do the following work on site: (a) remove and replace three windows for energy efficiency purposes. Mr. Mitchell informed the Commission that he wants to replace

the existing vinyl windows with new energy efficient vinyl windows to decrease his exorbitant heating bills and make the house warmer. Ms. Merrill commented on the quaintness of the homes in the area. Upon reviewing the petition submitted for the (a) removal and replacement of three windows, and all evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 4-0 that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester and approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Local Historic District Study Committee Discussion/Update:** Chair Schneider acknowledged that the Commissioners had received in their packets communication from the Massachusetts Historical Commission stating the application to expand the Montvale Local Historic District has been deemed complete by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Ms. Stolberg informed the Commissioners that Mr. Fontane would be contacting them relative to scheduling a public hearing.

**16 Whitman Road Discussion:** Commissioner Crowley informed the Commission that Esteve and Ashley Guir, who recently received a Certificate of Appropriateness to have windows removed, dipped, reglazed and reinstalled, have been issued an order from the City's Health Department, to vacate the premises and delead their home located at 16 Whitman Road after their children tested positive for lead poisoning. He said they are in the process of applying for financial assistance available from the State for deleading, but there are concerns over the cost of dipping the existing windows and reinstalling them versus removing them and installing replacement windows. He asked the Commission to authorize the Chair to send a letter to Acting Commissioner James Gardiner at the City's Department of Health and Human Services, with a copy sent to Neighbor Works, in support of the Guirs' efforts to maintain the historic character of this property located in the Montvale Local Historic District, while abating the lead paint issues associated with the house that have caused concern for the safety and health of their children. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, it was voted 4-0 to ask Mr. Fontane to craft an appropriate letter to Mr. Gardiner and authorized the Chair to sign the letter.

Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:10 P.M.