

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

November 6, 2008

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

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Thomas Constantine
Michael Theerman
Janet Merrill
Timothy McCann

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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **131 Providence Street (HC-2008-088) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Mary Toney, petitioner, is seeking to replace two garage doors due to the presence of lead paint. Jacqueline Vachon-Jackson, Lead Abatement Program Manager in the city's Neighborhood and Housing Services Division, said the City of Worcester is assisting Ms. Toney with a grant to cover the costs involved. Upon reviewing the petition submitted to replace two garage doors and all evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner Constantine and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, 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.
2. **29 Euclid Avenue (HC-2008-089) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** The petitioners, Renee and Scott Clock, are seeking to remove and replace asphalt shingles. Upon reviewing the petition submitted to remove and replace asphalt shingles and all evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner McCann, 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.
3. **26 Institute Road (HC-2008-090) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Nicholas Pelletier, representing the Aquinas Association, petitioner, is seeking a Building Demolition Delay Waiver to remove thirty-three (33) vinyl windows and replace them with thirty-three Pella Impervia Fiberglass replacement windows of the same size. Upon reviewing the petition submitted to remove thirty-three (33) vinyl windows and replace them with thirty-three Pella Impervia Fiberglass replacement windows of the same size and all evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner McCann and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

Washburn Moen Wire Rope Building (a.k.a. Rome Building) - Request for a vote to support the proposed rehabilitation: Stephen Crane, Special Projects Coordinator, Economic Development Division, gave a brief presentation relative to the proposed rehabilitation of the building for use as a visitor's center and to house the Worcester Historical Museum. Rob Para, from Lamoreaux and Pagano, indicated that the proposed design will be visually historic through a modern design. Commissioner Theerman said they might as well have torn the building down and rebuilt on the site and he could not vote to support the project as presented. Commissioner Merrill said she couldn't compare and contrast what presently exists and what is proposed. Chair Schneider questioned how it will look like an historic building. Mr. Crane said it is not the intent of the proposed rehabilitation to restore the building but to blend the old with the new design with the lion's share of the original structure visible through a glass facade. Commissioner Theerman indicated that he wanted the building to look more historic without the modern flavor. Both Mr. Crane and Mr. Para stated that visibility for identification purposes was a priority since it cannot be seen adequately from the highway. Commissioners asked if there were a model they could look at or clearer plans that would give them a better vision of what the structure was going to look like. Mr. Crane agreed to bring a model. Commissioners also wanted to tour the building. Commissioners did not want to send a letter of support because, although they support the concept of rehabilitating the building, they could not support the proposed design at this time. Mr. Crane agreed to set a time for Commissioners to tour the building.

95 Austin Street – Building Demolition Delay Waiver: Ms. Stolberg informed the Commission that this waiver would be constructively approved on November 9, 2008 because the hearing had not been advertised for the November 6, 2008 meeting as it should have been. The building had been damaged by fire and, as a result, has many code violations.

Minutes October 23, 2008 Meeting: The minutes were accepted.

Proposed 2009 Meeting Schedule: The proposed meeting schedule was distributed to the Commission. It will be on the November 20, 2008 agenda for an approval vote.

Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:35 P.M.