

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

March 12, 2009

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

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

Staff Present: Luba Zhaurova, 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 MINUTES

The minutes from the February 26, 2009 meeting were accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. 64-72 Millbury Street (HC-2009-003):** Ann and Chinh Ai Quang, the petitioners and John H. Le, representative for the petitioners, were present. Mr. Le described the project and said that the entire façade except for brick, piers, and parapets (also called brackets by the Commission) will be demolished because the wood is rotted. The blue paint will be removed from the bricks which will then be re-pointed. Old windows will be replaced with insulated glass store front windows. Chair Schneider confirmed that the panels below the window are made of wood. Mr. Le said that the wood would be removed and replaced with matching brick if he can find brick to match what exists. Chair Schneider asked how the paint will be removed expressing concern that the sand-blasting process might damage the brick. He then suggested using a chemical stripper instead of sand blasting with a different material. Commissioner Constantine suggested that Mr. Le use a licensed contractor to do this job. Chair Schneider confirmed that the roofline will be kept and maintained. Commissioner Theerman asked if the panels above the windows were covered-up windows. Mr. Le responded that these were areas for signage and said that these panels will also be replaced. Commissioner McCann indicated that he likes the improvements to the buildings and then asked if all four storefronts will look the same. Mr. Le said yes.

Upon reviewing the petition submitted and the evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner McCann and seconded by Commissioner Merrill, the Commission voted 5-0

that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the architectural or historical resources of the City of Worcester and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Institute Park: Chair Schneider provided comments and changes to the letter drafted for the Commission regarding a proposal for a bridge expansion over Salisbury Pond. The Commission was amenable to the changes.

230 Salisbury Street – Compliance Issue: The Commission discussed the response from Timothy Corrinet and Christopher McGovern to the Commission's letter. Mr. Corrinet and Mr. McGovern said in the letter that their intentions are to repair and replace the columns and balusters, but due to financial difficulties, they have not been able to do so yet. Chair Schneider was concerned that Mr. Corrinet and Mr. McGovern have not set a timeframe for the work completion. Commissioner Theerman felt that the Commission should not impose a time frame saying that the gentlemen are making an honest effort to replace the columns and balusters.

Route 20 Resurfacing. The Commission had received a letter from MassHighway regarding Route 20 resurfacing on portions of the road (MHD Project Number 603533). Commissioner Theerman noted that he wished that letters requesting Commission's review (per Section 106 of the national Historic Preservation Act) would include visuals and specific details of the proposed developments, so that it would be easier for the Commission to visualize projects and comment on them from a historic perspective. The Commission did not have any comments for MassHighway regarding the project.

5 Suburban Road. The Commission had received a letter from EBI Consulting with invitation to comment on the proposed telecommunications facility installation at 5 Suburban Road in Worcester. Chair Schneider said that the building was not historic. Other Commissioners stated that the building could be viewed from nearby Doherty High School and Elm Park. The Commission did not have any comments for EBI Consulting.

Crown Hill Local Historic District Study Committee Update: There were no updates.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:00 P.M.