

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

**August 6, 2015**

**LEVI LINCOLN CHAMBER – CITY HALL**

**Commission Members Present:** Kevin Provencher, Chair  
Randolph Bloom  
Devon Kurtz  
Robyn Conroy  
Karl Bjork-Alternate

**Commission Members Absent:** Timothy McCann, Secretary  
Andrew Shveda, Vice-Chair  
Cheryl Holley, Alternate

**Staff Members Present:** Stephen S. Rolle, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services  
Deborah Steele, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

**Approval of the Minutes:** 7/23/2015

Upon a motion by Chair Provencher and seconded by Commissioner Bjork, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of July 23, 2015 with three edits.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 339 Shrewsbury Street (HC-2015-055)**

Petition:	Building Demolition Delay Waiver
Petitioner:	Mark A. & Annunzia Grilla
Present Use:	Multi-family residence, commercial
Year Built:	Circa 1888
Historic Status:	MACRIS-listed, fka Borci Brothers Three Decker & Grocery Store
Petition Purpose:	Remove and replace asphalt shingles on main roof and back porch area

Annunzia and Mark Grilla appeared on behalf of the application.

Mr. Grilla stated that they want to replace the main roof and back porch area as it is leaking and causing damage.

Chair Provencher stated that it clear from the photos that the roof has reached the end of its useful life.

Ms. Grilla asked why she wasn't notified her home was historical and when it was listed.

Chair Provencher stated that it is quite common that people are unaware their home is listed historical and they are working on some initiatives to make new homeowners aware the property is listed as historical.

Ms. Grilla asked if they wanted to do work on the front barbershop portion will they have to come before the Commission and since all the historical material is gone from property will they be taken off the list.

Chair Provencher stated that he is unaware of any property being taken off the list and any work to the façade would need to come before the Commission.

Ms. Grilla stated that the roof is currently asphalt and they want to replace it.

Chair Provencher stated that based on dates and photos it is clear the shingles aren't original and asked if any additional work is required.

Chair Provencher asked what the material was at end of the roof. Mr. Grilla stated that it was vinyl.

Commissioner Bjork asked if any work would be done on the chimney. Mr. Grilla stated that they are going to put back the stainless steel cap that blew off that was on the chimney.

Ms. Grilla stated that they plan to replace the porch and asked if they would need to come back before the Commission. Chair Provencher stated that they would.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bjork and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, 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 for this project was approved.

Exhibit A: Application for Building Demolition Delay Waiver received July 19, 2015 and dated July 10, 2015.

**2. 258 Pleasant Street (HC-2015-056)**

Petition:	Certificate of Appropriateness
Petitioner:	256-258 Pleasant Street LLC
Present Use:	Lounge/Bar
Year Built:	Circa 1925
Historic Status:	Crown Hill Local Historic District
Petition Purpose:	Installation of a mural

Christopher Bettencourt and Tom Grady appeared on behalf of the item.

Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would like to install a mural and the mural will be painted on about half of the foundation, or roughly 50 feet of its length and stated that the foundation varies in height from four to six feet.

Mr. Bettencourt stated that he is putting up the funding for the mural and the mural will be done by artist Tom Grady, a local artist who teaches studio art in the area.

Mr. Grady stated that the mural will be painted on the foundation of the Newbury Street side of the building and will depict local musicians and performers who came out of the Crown Hill area. He stated that members of the rock group Orpheus lived in the Crown Hill area in the late 1960's and 1970's and will be among those depicted in the mural.

Mr. Grady reviewed some of his different art work with the Historical Commission members.

The Commission members all agreed they like the proposal and the level of detail that was presented on this proposal.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Bjork, the Commission voted 5-0 that the installation of a mural on the Newbury Street portion of the building is appropriate for the district. The motion passed and the Certificate of Appropriateness was approved.

Exhibit A: Application for Certificate of Appropriateness received July 14, 2015 and dated July 1, 2015.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **3. Request for Letter of Support from City of Worcester for**

- 99 Front Street – Worcester Common - Cleaning and Repairing of Soldiers Memorial

Timothy Boucher from the Worcester Parks Department appeared on behalf of the item.

Mr. Boucher stated that he had provided a report on the work for the cleaning and repairing of the Soldiers Memorial on the Worcester Common.

Chair Provencher stated that he had read the report and it is quite detailed and doesn't see why they wouldn't support the request.

Commissioner Conroy stated that she is very happy to see this request as they are coming to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Upon a motion by Chair Provencher and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue a Letter of Support.

- 121 Russell Street – Elm Park – Installation of new ADA accessible walkways, granite block stabilization, associated landscaping and dredging. Installation of Elm Park Standard decorative block wall with natural stone cap extending into the South Mere as needed to install new ‘Red Bridge’

Bill Richard from the Worcester Parks Department appeared on behalf of the item.

Mr. Richard stated that basically what they are doing is extending the wall beyond the location of the red bridge about 100 feet each way to construct the access way and ADA accessibility to the red bridge and some dredging needs to occur which requires permit from the Army Core of Engineers which requires support from the Historical Commission. The wall is the same as in the south and middle mere and they are extending a distance to accommodate the grading to the red bridge.

Chair Provencher asked if the wall construction was a recast block. Mr. Richard stated it will replicate what was there and will match the rest of the wall.

Chair Provencher asked if this proposal is reworking the banks that will support the bridge. Mr. Richard stated that they using the same piers this is just so they can do the work around the bridge.

Chair Provencher asked if there was any dredging required underneath the bridge. Mr. Richard stated that the only dredging is near the wall to stabilize the wall.

Chair Provencher asked if the walkway to the bridge would remain the same. Mr. Richard stated that it would.

Deborah Packard from Preservation Worcester stated that she had met with Rob Antonelli from the Worcester Parks Department and she had concerns and asked if the wall had to be 100 feet long and how high the wall would be and how they will match the other head stones.

Mr. Richard stated that the length of the wall is determined by the existing grade and they have to maintain a reasonable slope.

Chair Provencher stated that his preference would be to see a natural slope for as much as that area as possible.

Chair Provencher asked about the capstone.

Mr. Richard stated the natural caps will be natural stone.

Chair Provencher asked what type of stone.

Mr. Richard stated that it would be rock.

Chair Provencher asked what type.

Commissioner Bloom stated that he believes that what Mr. Richard is trying to explain is that the rocks are ones that nature had already provided.

Mr. Belcher stated that some rocks are still remaining in the park.

Upon a motion by Chair Provencher and seconded by Commissioner Bjork the Commission voted 5-0 to provide a Letter of Support.

**4. Open meeting law compliance statement**

The compliance statement was signed by Chair Provencher.

**5. Preservation Plan Update**

Chair Provencher stated that he had not received the email with the plan and would like to review the proposal and would forward his comments to Mr. Rolle. He also stated that he would like to see if another area in Worcester could be surveyed to have more homes added to the current inventory listing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion the Commission adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.