

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

**May 27, 2021**

**CITY HALL\***

**Commission Members Participating:** Diane Long, Vice Chair  
Janet Theerman, Clerk  
Randolph Bloom  
Tomi Stefani  
Steven Taylor  
Mark Wamback  
Erika Helnarski, Alternate

**Commission Members Not Participating:** Devon Kurtz, Chair

**Staff Members Participating:** Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services  
Stephen Rolle, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

\*Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was conducted through remote participation. The meeting was livestreamed from the City of Worcester website and is available for streaming online. Public participation was facilitated through a call-in number, 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191#), and link (<https://cow.webex.com/meet/historicalcommissionwebex>), which were publicized on the posted meeting agenda and during the video broadcast.

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**CALL COMMISSION TO ORDER** – 5:30 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – MAY 13, 2021

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 7-0 to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Certificate of Appropriateness & Building Demolition Delay Waiver**

**1. 2 Congress Street – HC-2021-023 (MBL 03-026-00035)**

Petitioner: Randolph R. & Edla Ann Bloom  
Year Built: 1856  
Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register; National Register District; National Register Determination of Eligibility; Preservation Restriction; Crown Hill Local Historic District, FKA Lyman J. Taft – Thomas C. Carroll House

Petition Purpose:

- Rebuild skylight
- Replace sections of fence

Randy Bloom presented his application. He stated that he needed to rebuild the skylight and replace sections of fence on his property. Mr. Bloom stated that it would cost several thousand dollars to replace the skylight.

On the Power Point presentation Mr. Bloom showed the current condition of the fence and explained what sections he like to replace. He stated that the stockade fence would be replaced to match the existing fence around the yard, and that the picket fence would be replaced in-kind.

Public Comment

No public comment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 6-0 (with Commissioner Bloom recused) to close the public hearing.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) (with Commissioner Bloom recused) opposed on a motion made and duly seconded that the proposed work, consisting of the following:

- Rebuild skylight in-kind
- Replace picket fencing panel, or individual pickets or posts, in-kind
- Replace stockade fencing panels with stockade fencing to match previously approved stockade fencing already on the property.

is appropriate and compatible with the preservation and protection of the Crown Hill Local Historic District as it relates to the historic and architectural value and significance of the site and structure. Having gained a unanimous vote, the motion passed and the Certificate of Appropriateness for 2 Congress Street was thus **approved**.

Also, the Commission voted six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed (with Commissioner Bloom recused) on a motion made and duly seconded that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the historical and architectural resources of the City of Worcester. Having gained a unanimous vote, the motion passed and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver for 2 Congress Street was thus **approved**.

List of Exhibits

**Exhibit A.** Certificate of Appropriateness & Building Demolition Delay Waiver Application, dated April 29, 2021, received May 3, 2021.

**Building Demolition Delay Waiver**

**2. 1 College Street – HC-2021-024 (MBL 10-040-00001)**

Petitioner: Leonard Raymond o/b/o College of the Holy Cross  
Year Built: 1895  
Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register; National Register District; National Register Multiple Resource Area, known as O’Kane Hall

Petition Purpose:

- Porch repairs

Leonard Raymond from College of the Holy Cross called in for the item.

Mr. Raymond stated that the decorative columns are rotting out so they are looking to replace them as close as possible to the original. He stated that there was a total of 8 columns that need to be replaced.

A Power Point slide was shown of what the columns would look like.

Public Comment

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 7-0 to close the public hearing.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed, on a motion made and duly seconded, that the work proposed, consisting of replacing the columns with polyurethane replicas on the front porch of O’Kane Hall, general repairs to the front porch of O’Kane Hall, and replacing wood trim on the front porch of O’Kane hall using in-kind design and material(s) would not be detrimental to the historical and architectural resources of the City. Having gained a unanimous vote, the motion passed and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver for 1 College Street was thus **approved**.

List of Exhibits

**Exhibit A.** Building Demolition Delay Waiver Application, dated April 27, 2021, received April 28, 2021.

**3. 266 Webster Street – HC-2021-025 (MBL 10-040-00001)**

- Petitioner: Charles Buduski o/b/o Artjan Nici  
Year Built: ca. 1778  
Historic Status: MACRIS listed, FKA Joseph Clark – John F. Boyce House  
Petition Purpose:
- Demolish outbuilding
  - Replace siding
  - Replace windows
  - Repair roof

Robert Osol, Attorney for Mr. Nici, along with Charles Buduski, the contractor, called in for the application.

A review of what was proposed was presented, which included demolishing the outbuilding and replacing siding and windows, as well as roof repairs.

Power Point slides were shown of the current condition of the home and outbuilding. The proposed replacement materials for siding and windows were discussed.

The Commission asked if an engineer had viewed the site to determine the viability of the outbuilding. The response was no.

Commissioner Bloom asked Ms. Johnstone if the building would be eligible for listing in the National Register. Ms. Johnstone stated that in her professional opinion that based on the age and condition of building, it’s likely that it would be eligible for listing in the National Register.

Ms. Johnstone suggested some alternative materials that could be used that would be more historically appropriate.

The Commission and the applicant discussed the various costs associated with the different types of materials and the Commission also asked that an engineer report be presented to the Commission for the outbuilding.

The applicant requested to continue the application to the June 10, 2021 Historical Commission meeting.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 7-0 to continue the Building Demolition Delay Waiver Application to the June 10, 2021 Historical Commission meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Notice of State Historic Preservation Officer finding of no adverse effect to the Worcester Boys' Club, 2 Ionic Avenue.

No comment.

B. Invitation from Nova Group to comment on proposed cellular antenna installation at 35 Hamilton Street (Section 106).

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 7-0 to decline comment on the item.

C. Invitation from EBI Consulting to comment on proposed telecommunications facility at 100 Front Street (Section 106).

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 7-0 to decline comment on the item.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on the creation of potential new Local Historic District(s).

A brief discussion was held regarding status of the work being done on the creation of the new LHD.

Upon a roll call the Commission voted 7-0 to approve the letter, the boundaries and the survey that would be used to help create the LHD.

B. Discussion on Design Review Guidelines. No comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.