

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

June 24, 2021

CITY HALL*

Commission Members Participating: Devon Kurtz, Chair
Diane Long, Vice-Chair
Janet Theerman, Clerk
Randolph Bloom
Erika Helnarski, Alternate

Commission Members Not Participating: Mark Wamback
Tomi Stefani
Steven Taylor

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

This Worcester Historical Commission meeting will be held in-person at the date, time, and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone:

- Use the following link to join the meeting via computer:
<https://cow.webex.com/meet/historicalcommissionwebex> or
- Call **415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191)** for the Historical Commission.

Application materials may be viewed on the City Website at <http://www.worcesterma.gov/planning-regulatory/boards/historical-commission>.

For more information concerning this meeting, to request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation, or to submit written comments in advance of the meeting, please contact the Planning Division by email (preferred) at planning@worcesterma.gov or phone at (508) 799-1400 x 31440. Submission of comments in advance of the hearing is strongly encouraged. Note: interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

CALL COMMISSION TO ORDER – 5:30 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 27, 2021; JUNE 10, 2021

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of May 27, 2021.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of June 10, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Certificate of Appropriateness & Building Demolition Delay Waiver

1. 8–10 Regent Street – HC-2021-032 (MBL 20-014-00007)

Petitioner: Massachusetts Gamma Sigma Alumni Association
Year Built: 1903

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register of Historic Places; Massachusetts Avenue Local Historic District, known historically as the Anjeanette Kenney Smith–James E. Wesson House and later as the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House

Petition Purpose:

- Replace roof

Stephen Gale from the Massachusetts Gamma Sigma Alumni Association and Paul Lechiara, owner of East Coast Metal Roofing, appeared upon behalf of the application.

Mr. Gale stated that they are looking to replace the roof on their carriage house, as it is in disrepair.

Mr. Lechiara presented to the Commission samples of the roofing product to be used, and photos of what the roof would look like when installed

The Commission asked what the cost would be to replace the slate roof.

Mr. Gale stated that just to repair a portion of the roof with slate would be \$43,000 so that's why they are starting looking into other options.

Public Comment

Deborah Packard from Preservation Worcester stated that she has concerns about taking down a slate roof in a Local Historic District.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 5-0 to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Chairman Kurtz stated they would reopen the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for further discussion.

The Commission had further discussion regarding any possibility of only a portion of the roof being replaced with metal. It was found that that would not be possible.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 5-0 to re-close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted two (2) to three (3), with Commissioners Long and Kurtz being the yeas and Commissioners Bloom, Theerman, and Helnarski being the nays, that the proposed work, consisting of the following replacing the existing slate roof at 8 Regent Street with an aluminum shingle roofing system is appropriate and compatible with the preservation and protection of the Massachusetts Avenue Local Historic District as it relates to the historic and architectural value and significance of the site and structure. *The motion failed.*

The Commission discussed what options would be available to the applicant and asked if the applicant could come back with some cost estimates. Mr. Daly stated that he would and like to continue the item so he could provide that information to the Commission.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted 5-0 to continue the application to the July 8, 2021 Historical Commission meeting.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A. Building Demolition Delay Waiver Application dated May 27, 2021 and received June 2, 2021.

Building Demolition Delay Waiver

2. 16 Salisbury Street – HC-2021-033 (MBL 01-004-00004)

Petitioner: Deborah Packard, Preservation Worcester

Year Built: 1929

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register of Historic Places; National Register District; National Register Multiple Resource Area, FKA Worcester Boys' Club

Petition Purpose:

- Masonry cleaning & repairs
- Window & door replacements
- Conversion of a secondary entrance to a primary entrance
- Conversion of a window to a door

Deborah Packard from Preservation Worcester appeared upon behalf of the application.

Drew Culver and representatives from Cutler (participating remotely), as well as Alisa Augenstein from the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) reviewed the scope of the work on a slide show.

The Commission asked clarifying questions about the addition proposed, as well as questions in regards to other implications of the project.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 5-0 to close the Public Hearing portion of the hearing.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 5-0 that the proposed work 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 the proposed work at 16 Salisbury Street was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Notice of positive National Register Determination of Eligibility for St. Joseph's Home for Working Girls.

No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.