



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

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Worcester City Hall - Levi Lincoln Chamber,
with remote participation options available via Webex online at
<https://cow.webex.com/meet/historicalncommissionwebex> and
call-in number 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191).

Commissioners Present: Diane Long, Chair
Janet Theerman, Vice-Chair
Steven Taylor
Tomi Stefani
Devon Kurtz (participated remotely)
Erika Helnarski (participated remotely)
Vanessa Andre, Alternate

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services (DPRS)

Call Commission to Order – 5:30 PM

Approval of Minutes – 6/30/2022, 08/25/2022

On a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Commission voted 6-0, with Commissioner Helnarski abstaining due to her absence at the meeting, to approve the June 30, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

On a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor, the Commission voted 6-0, with Commissioner Stefani abstaining due to his absence at the August 25, 2022 meeting, to approve the August 25, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

New Business

Certificate of Appropriateness

1. 111 Austin Street – HC-2022-051

Jesse Hilgenberg appeared on behalf of Rebecca & Daniel Yarnie. He stated that they are planning on constructing a multifamily residential building on the lot that is vacant and showed a rendering on what was being proposed for the lot and reviewed the proposed material that would be used.

Chair Long stated that she appreciates the material proposed but this is a very large apartment building planned in a mainly single family neighborhood.

The Commission asked Mr. Hilgenberg why this proposal would be appropriate for a local historic district. Mr. Hilgenberg stated that there is no residential units available in the area and nobody in Worcester can find a place to rent and this building won't be in the dead center of the District.

The Commission and Mr. Hilgenberg discussed what would be the visual effect this building would have on the neighborhood.

Chair Long asked if they considered doing two buildings on the site. Mr. Hilgenberg stated no as then site would need to go through Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Commission asked if a 3D rendering could be done. Mr. Hilgenberg stated that he can do another rendering but to do a 3D rendering would be too costly and he doesn't find them of much use.

Chair Long suggested that the Commission view the site prior to the next meeting. Ms. Johnstone stated that she can set up views in groups so that the Commission does not violate open meeting law.

Public Comment

None.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted 7-0 to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted 7-0 to continue the application to the September 22, 2022 and to extend the constructive grant deadline to September 28, 2022.

Building Demolition Delay Waiver

2. 24 Indian Hill Road – HC-2022-058

Trevor Bross of Pella Windows & Doors, 155 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301, appeared on behalf of Stacie Paquette. Ms. Paquette also participated on WebEx.

Ms. Johnstone stated that most of the windows in this building were replacement windows so the only thing that is being considered is a removal of a section of siding to create a new window for the octagonal window.

Stacie Paquette, participating remotely, stated that she looking to add this opening as she has a home office and would like to get more light by adding this window opening.

Public Comment

None.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted 7-0 to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Upon on a motion made by Commissioner Theerman and duly seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed, that the work proposed at 24 Indian Hill Road, consisting of the creation of a new opening to accommodate an octagonal window as per the plans

submitted by the applicant, would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City. Having gained a majority vote, the motion passed and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver for 24 Indian Hill Road was thus approved.

3. 5 Hecla Street – HC-2022-059

Nhi Truong, participating remotely, stated that her parents are looking to replace one window in the home as it got broken over the summer.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted 7-0 that the building was not eligible for listing and not subject to the Historical Commission's purview as they structure has been heavily altered and not eligible for listing on the state or national register and votes to allow for Leave to Withdraw for the application.

4. 30 Millbury Street – HC-2022-061

Edward Murphy, participating remotely, stated that there is an old storefront currently there that has been boarded up and the storefront has been altered beyond recognition and he would like to replace the storefront.

Public Comment

No Comment.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed to close the public hearing portion of the meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed, that the work proposed at 30 Millbury Street, consisting of the replacement of storefronts, would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City. Having gained a majority vote, the motion passed and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver for 30 Millbury Street was thus approved.

Communications

- A. Request from Green International Affiliates, Inc. for comment regarding the reconstruction of Bridge W-44-083, Harrison Street over I-290, and W-44-093, Laurel Street over I-290 (Section 106).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) to support the reconstruction of Bridge W-44-083 Harrison Street over I-290, and W-44-093, Laurel Street over I-290 (Section 106).

Other Business

None

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Taylor the Commission voted seven (7) in favor and zero (0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.