



Holyoke Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Chris Gauthier, Paola Ferrario, Joe Paul, James Sheehan, Francis Welson

Absent: Ali Puffer

Municipal Staff: Debbie Oppermann (OPED)

Others Present: Bob Comeau, Michael Moriarty (One Holyoke CDC)

1. **Call to Order-** Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Review of January 14, 2019 minutes** – a motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Paola Ferrario to approve the minutes for 1-14-19 - passed unanimously.
3. **Public Participation** – None.
4. **Walking Tours – Bob Comeau** – Mr. Comeau provided Commissioners with a list of six, free, guided walking tours he has planned for the year asking if the Commission would lend its name as host for the last three: Ashley Ponds Reservoir (9/14), Whiting Street Reservoir (10/12) and Holyoke Canal System Bus Tour (11/9). He Comeau explained that he has received some funding from the Local Cultural Council for these tours. Joe Paul made a motion to lend the Commission's name as co-host of the three tours, James Sheehan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. **MIFA** – Debbie Oppermann reported that MIFA had contacted her after the agenda went out to say that they would not be attending this meeting as they had not yet purchased 134 Chestnut Street and felt that it would be inappropriate to discuss a potential demolition of the building before they own it. The matter was moved to the March agenda.
6. **One Holyoke CDC:** Michael Moriarty, Executive Director of One Holyoke CDC presented a project that he has requested Community Preservation Act funding for from the Holyoke Community Preservation Committee. He explained that he had been asked to get an opinion from the Historical Commission regarding if the building at 43 Canal Street was historically significant. Debbie Oppermann showed a copy of the National Register of Historic Places Hadley Falls Company Housing District nomination form and the MACRIS form HLY.S. Joe Paul made a motion saying that the Historical Commission believes that 43 Canal Street is historically significant in accordance with Chapter 44B, Section 2, James Sheehan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
7. **Demolition Delay Ordinance Revisions:** Debbie Oppermann reported that she did not finish this task since the January meeting as she was writing grants. She said that

she would have information and suggestions for the revisions tasked to her for the March meeting. Paola Ferrario reported that she had spoken with Sarah LaValley, Northampton's sustainability staff person regarding demolition delay ordinances. Paola said that when it came to defining "partial" demolition, Northampton didn't have an answer either. **Paola also mentioned a workshop on "neglect" that Northampton was hosting?**

8. Old Business:

a. MHC Survey & Planning Grant Submission

Debbie Opperman reported that the Main Street Corridor study grant submission met the deadline. The amount requested was \$10,000 which the City said would be matched by \$13,000 comprised of \$10,000 CDBG funds and \$3,000 in-kind for OPED staff support for a total project cost of \$23,000. Debbie Oppermann reminded the Commission that OPED had submitted a grant request for CDBG funds for \$20,000 hoping that more money would buy a broader scope of work.

b. Richardson Train Station – Rich Ahlstrom reported that his contact at HG&E is no longer there. He is meeting with Rep. Aaron Vega tomorrow and will update the Commission at the March meeting.

c. CPC Update ? (what DUO remembers from the meeting in italics)

Debbie Oppermann reported that Rich Ahlstrom, Joe Paul and Debbie Oppermann attended the March 27th meeting of the CPC wherein Debbie stated to the CPC that she had reviewed Amy Landau's February 4th email to her, Shannon Walsh (Historic Preservation Planner PVPC) and Richard Ahlstrom with OPED director Marco Marrero to ascertain if the Items 1-4 were tasks that the Historical Commission could agree to undertake, noting the staff time involved. She said that Mr. Marrero found those tasks acceptable, with the exception of "review contractors/ vendors for projects to ensure their quality". She then stated to the CPC that the Historical Commission had not been informed of this yet and as such had not agreed to any of the tasks included in the email and wouldn't be meeting again until March 11th where it would be discussed then.

Frances Welton expressed her concern that decisions regarding work with the CPC were being made without the Historical Commission's knowledge or input.

9. New Business ?

10. Next Meeting – March 11, 2019

11. Adjourn – Paola Ferrario made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Paul seconded it and it passed unanimously adjourning the meeting at 7:35

Submitted by: