



Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 12, 2019

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

Municipal Staff: Ben Murphy (OPED), Marco Crescentini(CPC)

1. **Call to Order-** Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Review of July 15, 2019 Minutes** – A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Frances Welson to accept the minutes from July 15, 2019, as amended. All were in favor.
3. **Public Participation** – No public participation
4. **Historic Tax Credit Letters of Support**
 - a. **123 Pine Street**

Ben Murphy discussed a letter of support for 123 Pine Street for Historic Tax Credits and discussion regarding a letter of support to nominate 123 Pine Street to the National Register of Historic Places.
A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Paola Ferrario to approve the letter of support for the nomination for the MA Historical Tax Credits for 123 Pine Street. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Joe Paul to support a nomination for 123 Pine Street to the National Register of Historic Places and to have the chair sign the letter of support. All were in favor.
 - b. **348 Chestnut Street and 40-52 Franklin Street**

A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by Joe Paul to approve a letter to the MA Historical Commission in support of MA Historic Tax Credits for 348 Chestnut and 48-52 Franklin Street. All were in favor.
5. **Community Preservation Act**
 - a. **CPA Historic Preservation Grants – Preservation Restrictions**

Ben Murphy provided an article to the Commissioners titled “Placing Preservation Restrictions on Historic Resources.” The Community Preservation Committee has asked the Historical Commission to hold preservation restrictions for the City of Holyoke on non-municipally owned CPA funded historic preservation project properties. The commissioners asked what is involved in holding the restrictions and Mr. Murphy responded that it involved signing off on the preservation restriction. The CPC is moving forward with 25-year preservation restrictions and during that time period the applicant would need to get approval from the HHC to make any exterior changes to the property. The applicant must agree to the preservation restriction to receive CPA funds. There was some concern about how the HHC would administer the restrictions as outline in the document that was provided. Mr. Murphy stated he would look into how other communities in the Commonwealth administer the restrictions.
 - b. **CPA Plan – Historic Preservation Priorities**

Ben Murphy reviewed the Priority Endangered Properties from the 2017 Historic Preservation Plan with the Commission. He stated that OPED intends to again apply for CPA Funds for the Richardson Train Station which is due at the end of September.

c. Reviewing CPA Applications for Historic Significance & Priority

Frances Welson clarified that the CPC wants the HHC to come up with criteria to determine historical significance in properties and then assess the applications.

A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Joe Paul that at the next HHC meeting the Commissioner will review the criteria to determine the Historical Significance of the property CPC application; and in case the Commissioners do not have the expertise to determine the significance they will contract out to PVPC. All were in favor.

Ben Murphy read the Historic Resources section that will be added to the Project Eligibility Determination Instructions of the FY20 CPA grant application. Richard Ahlstrom asked Marco Crescentini to bring in a CPA application for the next HHC meeting to discuss further.

6. Commission Vacancies – The Commissioners asked Marco Crescentini if he was interested in becoming an Alternate for the HHC. Mr. Crescentini stated that he was interested and will send a letter of interest to the Mayor regarding becoming an alternate for the Historical Commission.

7. 2019 Mass Historic Preservation Conference – September 20th in Plymouth

Ben Murphy stated that he has signed up for this Conference and asked if any of the Commissioners were interested in attending. Paola Ferrario stated that she wanted to attend all other Commissioners will email Mr. Murphy if they are interested in attending.

8. Updates

a. Demolition Delay Ordinance Update

Frances Welson stated that she went to the Problem Properties Group meeting and spoke to the group about the activities of the Holyoke Historical Commission and asked for their input on proposed changes to the Demo Delay Ordinance before it is brought to the City Council. Ms. Welson will be attending the next Problem Property Group meeting in September.

b. MHC Survey & Planning Grant Update

Ben Murphy stated that the Historical Commission received a \$10,000 grant from the Mass Historical Commission to complete and update historic building surveys along the Main Street corridor. The grant is being matched with \$13,000 in CBDG funds for a total project budget of \$23,000. He continued that once a consultant is hire they will work with staff and attend some HHC meetings to identify the final list of properties to be surveyed. Mr. Murphy stated that there will be a selection committee for hiring the consultant and asked if anyone on the Commission was interested in joining the committee.

c. MHC Preservation Project Grant – City Hall Stain Glass Windows

Ben Murphy stated that the Historical Commission was copied on a grant award letter from Mass Historical Commission regarding a \$55,000 grant that was received to restore stain glass windows in City Hall. The Department of Public Works is administering the grant.

9. Old Business - No old business

10. New Business- No new business

11. Next Meeting – September 9, 2019

12. Adjourn – There being no other business before the Commission, a motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by James Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor.

Sincerely,

**Richard Ahlstrom, Chairperson
Holyoke Historical Commission**