



Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 9, 2019

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Frances Welson, Chris Gauthier, James Sheehan **Municipal Staff:** Ben Murphy (OPED) **Others Present:** Marco Crescentini(CPC)

1. **Call to Order-** Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Review of August 12, 2019 Minutes**
A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by James Sheehan to accept the minutes from August 12, 2019, as amended. All were in favor.

3. **Public Participation** – No public participation

**Agenda taken out of order*

4. **Community Preservation Act**

- a. **CPA Historic Preservation Grants – Preservation Restrictions**

Marco Crescentini stated that this year the CPC will be asking all historic preservation applicants to add a historic consultant as part of their budget. Mr. Crescentini will ask Amy Landau if the preservation restrictions are just for aspects of the project being funded with CPA funds or for the entire building. Ben Murphy added that a UMass student intern from the preservation program could help administer the preservation restriction annual reporting during the summer to ensure that the applicants are being compliant with the preservation restrictions. Staff would supervise and review the work of the intern.

- b. **CPA Plan – Historic Preservation Priorities - Reviewing CPA Applications for Historic Significance & Priority**

Ben Murphy shared examples of historic preservation priorities from other cities with the Commission. Marco Crescentini stated that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) would like the Historical Commission to work with them regarding the historic preservation projects. The CPC would like the Commission to “rank” the historic preservation applications for the best use of the funds. The Commissioners felt that they do not want to “rank” applications. There will be future discussion at the next meeting.

5. **Historic Tax Credit Letters of Support Policy**

Ben Murphy stated that this policy will provide guidance to historic tax credit applicants that are required to acquire a support letter from the HHC. The policy will streamline the process and allow the Commission time to act on requests.

A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by Paola Ferrario to accept the policy; and if needs revisions it will be revised. All were in Favor.

6. **Certified Local Government Annual Report**

Ben Murphy stated that he emailed the Commissioners the report. The report is due at the end of September. He worked with Marco Crescentini to get the information needed for the report from the Local Historic District Commission. The report covers July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

7. Updates

a. Demolition Delay Ordinance Update

Ben Murphy provided the Commissioners with feedback from the Building Department, Board of Health and Fire Department on the proposed changes to the Demo Delay Ordinance. City Departments generally agreed that they would like the delay to stay at 100 years old or older at the time a demolition permit application is filed. The comments also generally suggested that the delay should stay at 6 months from the date of determination. Richard Ahlstrom will reach out to the department heads to speak with them individually and will work with Frances Welson to work on putting together a presentation to present to the Problem Properties Group to explain why the Historical Commission believes that the proposed changes are needed. Mr. Ahlstrom will contact department heads from Building, Board of Health and Fire Department to have conversations with them individually.

b. MHC Survey & Planning Grant Update

Ben Murphy stated that two quotes were received from consultants that are interested in working on the MHC survey and planning grant. Mr. Murphy asked if any Commissioners were interested in being part of the Selection Committee and Chris Gauthier and Frances Welson volunteered to participate. Mr. Murphy will schedule the Selection Committee meeting date and time.

8. Old Business

a. Marco Crescentini appointment

Frances Welson stated that the Mayor appointed Marco Crescentini as an alternate for the Historical Commission. She also added that the Mayor will advertise for the vacancies via social media. Mr. Crescentini will need to be confirmed by the City Council and sworn in by the City Clerk before he is seated on the Commission.

b. 123 Pine St.

Ben Murphy stated that at the last meeting the Commission voted to support the National Register nomination for 123 Pine Street that Valley Opportunity Council was submitting. This week they also sent a Certified Local Government opinion eligibility for the National Register. It will be sent with the already approved letter of support to the Mass Historical Commission.

9. New Business- No new business

10. Next Meeting – October 7, 2019

11. Adjourn

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

Sincerely,

**Richard Ahlstrom, Chairperson
Holyoke Historical Commission**