



Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC)

Meeting Minutes

Monday August 9, 2021

Due to the declared public health emergency, the meeting was held virtually via zoom.us

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 1644 2960

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom, Elana Aubrey, Paola Ferraro, Christopher Gauthier, Luis Salazar, Frances Welson, Marco Crescentini,

Not in Attendance: N/A

Municipal Staff: Ben Murphy (OPED) Gabriella Klinakis (OPED) Aaron Vega (OPED)

Others in Attendance: Christine Berge (LHDC), Olivia Mausel (LHDC), Darcy Lambert (LHDC), Matteo Riondato (LHDC), Peter Palombella (Hadley Falls Housing), Robert Comeau

1. Call to Order – Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Review of July 12, 2021 Minutes

Paola Ferrario had minor changes to the July meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Christopher Gauthier and seconded by Luis Salazar to accept the minutes from July 12, 2021 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Participation – No Public Participation.

4. Joint Meeting with Holyoke Local Historic District Commission- As chair of the Local Historic District Commission (LHDC), Marco Crescentini called the LHDC Meeting to order at 5:44 pm. The LHDC and the HHC members introduced themselves.

a. Sacred Heart/ Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Buildings; Discussion on Establishing a Local Historic District- The LHDC members agreed to work with the HHC member to prepare a preliminary report for the Church and parish buildings. Ben Murphy explained that the process to establish a local historic district would start when a preliminary report is sent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Holyoke Planning Board. 60 days after submitting the report to MHC the LHDC can hold a public hearing and then make a recommendation to the City Council on establishing an historic district. It is ultimately up to the City Council to establish an historic district. Ms. Ferrario and Ms. Mausel volunteer to work with Mr. Murphy on drafting the preliminary report.

b. Discussion on Combining Historical Commission & Historic District Commission (Taken out of order, spoken about before item A)- Aaron Vega, Director of OPED, shared that staff has informally discussed combining the two commissions so that there is a full slate of Commissioners and for staff support for the Historic District, especially with the possibility of additional historic districts being established in the

future. Ben Murphy shared that he reached out to MHC and received a list of municipalities that have combined commissions, including Northampton. Mr. Murphy clarified that combining the commissions would mean that all commissioners would participate in the powers in duties of both a historical and historic district commission. Frances Welson and Marco Cresentini volunteered to meet with Mr. Murphy to research how to combine the two commissions.

c. Adjournment of LHDC

At 6:57 p.m. the members of the Local Historic District Commission adjourned their meeting.

5. Proceeding with Revised Preservation Ordinance (Demo Delay)- Mr. Ahlstrom thanked the Commission for their time and dedication to the letter they wrote last week related to the demolition bond that was in front of the City Council. Mr. Ahlstrom said that he will reach out to Councilor Lisi, Chair of the Ordinance Committee, to see if the revised demo delay ordinance be heard by the Committee at an upcoming meeting. Ben Murphy will send out a list of members on both the Finance and Ordinance Committee so that the Commission can reach out to them personally to ask for their support.

6. Shutters in the Hadley Falls Company Housing Historic District- Ben Murphy said that he had a conversation with Mike Moriarty, Executive Director of OneHolyoke CDC. OneHolyoke and the Historical Commission have a preservation restriction on several of the properties within the Hadley Falls Company Housing Historic District. A 30-year deed restriction was placed on the properties in the 1970s and there was an option to add 10 additional, 10-year restrictions. OneHolyoke has taken that option and therefore the restrictions are still in place. Mr. Murphy said that he is under the impression that Mike Moriarty is trying to get the shutters removed from the buildings. Peter Palombella said that he would like a letter of support from the Commission saying that the shutters are not historically significant.

A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by Christopher Gauthier to write a letter of support to request the removal of the vinyl shutter on the Hadley Falls Company Housing building. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Historical Commission Community Engagement- Luis Salazar shared that he has been working on the image for the historical Holyoke project. Ben Murphy shared that the office is holding an event in October called Doors Open Holyoke, this will give citizens the opportunity to explore the history and architecture of places that they may not normally be open to the public.

8. Mt. Tom B-17 Memorial - Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places- Ben Murphy asked Commissioners if they are comfortable sending an opinion to MHC stating they find that the Mt. Tom B-17 crash site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Commission will take this up at the next meeting.

9. Old Business- Richard Ahlstrom said that he will follow up with Carl Cameron, Holyoke Medical Center COO, about the status of 1840 Northampton Street.

10. New Business- No new business.

11. Next Meeting- September 13, 2021

12. Adjourn

At 7:32 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Luis Salazar and seconded by Marco Crescentini to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

**Sincerely,
Holyoke Historical Commission**