



HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION (HHC)

Meeting

Minutes Monday,
December 13, 2021

Due to the declared public health emergency the meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 860 0752 2197

Attendance: Chair-Richard Ahlstrom, Elana Aubrey, Marco Crescentini, **Vice Chair**-Paola Ferrario, **Recording Secretary**-Christopher Gauthier, Luis Salazar & Frances Welson.

Not in Attendance: None

Municipal Staff: Director, Office of Planning & Economic Development-Aaron Vega

Others in Attendance: Assistant City Solicitor-Attorney Kathleen Degnan. Daniel Knapik, Sean Dorantes & Andrew Melendez, The New England Farm Workers Council. Oliva Mausel, Holyoke Preservation Trust.

1. **Call to Order** – Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order @ 5:32 pm and announced that the meeting was being recorded.
2. **Review of October 12, & November 8, 2021 Minutes** – A motion was made by Christopher Gauthier and seconded by Paola Ferrario to accept the minutes from October 12, 2021. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Christopher Gauthier and seconded by Luis Salazar to accept the minutes from November 8, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **Public Participation** – None.
4. **Discussion – Combining Historical & Local Historic District Commissions** – Frances Welson asked Marco Crescentini if the Local Historic District was interested in exploring combining Commissions. Marco Crescentini stated at the last meeting they were in favor of combining Commissions. Aaron Vega stated he spoke with the mayor & that every member would be welcome to apply to the new Commission. Paola Ferrario stated that the fact that the order to combine the commissions had already been sent to City Council without the Commission's vote should be discussed in an Executive session. Paola Ferrario recommended to table this discussion to a further meeting and asked for a motion. Luis Salazar stated that the two commissions performed very different tasks for the city. Elana Aubrey expressed concern about how many of the councilors would be appointed to the newly formed commission and how much effort it would take to form the new commission. A motion was made to table combining the 2 Commissions until the January meeting by Marco Crescentini, and seconded by Christopher Gauthier. The motion carried unanimously.

Due to Atty Kathleen Degnan's time constraints, Richard Ahlstrom asked for a motion to move out of order to take up 7b, the Preservation Restriction for 348 Chestnut Street. A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by Paola Ferrario. The motion carried unanimously.



7. Community Preservation Act-Historic Preservation Projects.

7b - Preservation **Restrictions for 348 Chestnut Street 48-52 Franklin Street** – Richard Ahlstrom stated the CPA Awarded \$50,000, for exterior restoration of the building, The HHC is asked to hold the Preservation Restriction which mandates how the exterior of the building must be kept. Richard Ahlstrom spoke of the roles we would have to assume. Attorney Kathleen Degan spoke of major and minor repairs and approval of the Commission. Attorney Kathleen Degan explained that the PRA was not a liability for the city, but the HHC must enforce the rules of the PRA in case complaints about the exterior of the building are brought forth. Marco Crescentini made a motion to approve a Preservation Restriction for 348 Chestnut Street and seconded by Paola Ferrario. Frances Welson abstained, while, Paola Ferrario, Richard Ahlstrom, Marco Crescentini, Christopher Gauthier, Luis Salazar & Elana Aubrey gave a yes vote.

7a – **225 High Street** - Daniel Knapik of the New England Farm Works Council, introduced his staff, Dean Dorantes and Andrew Melendez. Paola Ferrario stated that the Commission would write a letter of Historical Importance for the building but, she wished that the applicants had submitted the CPA application to the committee. Frances Welson pointed out that the support materials were distributed to the Commission very late, not giving time for proper review. A motion was made by Christopher Gauthier to write a letter of Historical Significance for 225 High Street and seconded by Paola Ferrario. The motion carried unanimously.

7c – **Mountain Park Mobile Ticket Booth** – Commissioners stated that no additional sub staining information had been submitted to the original proposal which was submitted on: 11/8/2021. Luis Salazar made a motion to not to declare the Mountain Park Mobile Ticket booth to be of Historical Significance, due to lack of details regarding location and restoration of the artifact in question, the motion was seconded by Frances Welson. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Historical Commission Community Engagement** – Paola Ferrario requested Aaron Vega to find a way to officially recognize the Historic Commission for the Open Doors Event, and a thank you note to the interns. Paola Ferrario stated that Frances Welson edited all the information files of the interns. Discussion amongst Commissioners about coordinating with other city departments to be involved and to be informed for future events.
6. **Proceeding with Revised Preservation Ordinance (Demo Delay)** –Oliva Mausel, of the Holyoke Preservation Trust offered her guidance to prepare an executive summary to City Council. Frances Welson spoke of a letter; the Commission had originally drafted that could be condensed. It will be put on January’s agenda.
8. **Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated When Meeting Agenda Posted** - Paola Ferrario requested an Executive Session about joining of the 2 Commissions.
9. **Next Meeting** – January 10, 2022.
10. **Adjourn** – At 7:36 pm there being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Marco Crescentini and seconded by Elana Aubrey to adjourn the meeting, the motion carried unanimously.