



Chair – Richard Ahlstrom
Vice Chair – Paola Ferrario
Recording Secretary – Christopher Gauthier
Commissioners: Elana Aubrey, Luis Salazar & Frances Welton
Alternate Commissioner: Marco Crescentini

HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION (HHC)

Meeting
Minutes Monday,
January 10, 2022

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

Meeting ID: 893 2089 3360

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom, Elana Aubrey, Paola Ferrario, Christopher Gauthier & Frances Welton.

Not in Attendance: Marco Crescentini & Luis Salazar

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

Others in Attendance: None

1. **Call to Order** – Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order @ 5:35pm and announced that the meeting was being recorded.
2. **Review of December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Christopher Gauthier to table December 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes to rewrite & edit minutes. The motion carried unanimously. General discussion of past meeting minutes being approved with corrections and their location to post on the web site.
3. **Public Participation** – None.
4. **Historical Commission Community Engagement** – Paola Ferrario shared a letter written to the 2 interns to thank them for their work and to be signed from the Commission & OPED.
5. **Historic/Heritage Tourism Plan** – Aaron Vega spoke of the Tourism Committee and gave an update of its blueprint and dedicated page for the Commission's web page to be developed over time. Richard Ahlstrom asked the Commissioners of any interest to be a point person, Elana Aubrey offered to assist.
6. **Proceeding with Revised Preservation Ordinance (Demo Delay)** – Richard Ahlstrom noted that the Ordinance Committee has been formed and discussion of a one-page mission statement to bring to the Ordinance Committee and asking for a date to move this forward. Richard Ahlstrom stated a directive to move forward with a letter to the Chair of the Ordinance Committee asking for a date to move forward, then letters to each member with a one-page mission statement, then bringing it to City Council.



- 7. Community Preservation Act – Review of Eligibility Determination Policy** – Richard Ahlstrom stated after reviewing informational sheets provided by Ma Historic, that the Commission approved to utilize on January 2021, that we are asked to determine if a building is historically significant to the CPA, and our responsibility of future restriction changes and our roles. Paola Ferrario stated that we are underneath MA Historic, this agreement has to be approved by them first. Further clarification was discussed of is that our only role to determine a structure, being historically significant for eligibility to apply for CPA funding? Paola Ferrario stated that she has more information about the documents and how they came to be, but it could not be discussed at this meeting, due to talking about staff, and to have an executive session. Paola Ferrario also stated a joint meeting with the CPA is needed. It was agreed the need to find out more about these guidelines and how this was implemented, representation and connections with the bodies. Discussion amongst the Commission of another point of view with the CPA, of what they need from the Commission and the state body that regulates us if our policy is correct.
- 8. Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated When Meeting Agenda Posted** – Richard Ahlstrom stated the Farr Alpaca building is looking for another letter of support, we will utilize the previous letter written with a current date. Frances Welson made a motion, and seconded by Paola Ferrario to send the letter. The motion carried unanimously. Richard Ahlstrom also spoke of an email to all Commissioners of the Spring Virtual Workshops. Elana Aubrey asked what staff was on the Problem Property Groups. Aaron Vega answered that it's department heads within the city. Discussion of time constraints with this group and challenges of attending these meetings. Aaron Vega shared a report of the Problem Property Group's annual report. Aaron Vega clarified that the Revised Preservation Ordinance is with Charter & Rules, NOT the Ordinance Committee. Discussion of concerns of the Local Historic District in ordinance does not have a home within the city departments. In addition, after discussion with the Commission it was agreed to table an Executive Session until the next meeting, due to not being clear on its rules to move forward.
- 9. Next Meeting** – February 14, 2022.
- 10. Adjourn** – At 7:16pm there being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Elana Aubrey and seconded by Frances Welson to adjourn the meeting, the motion carried unanimously.