



Chair – Paola Ferrario
Vice Chair – vacant
Recording Secretary – Christopher Gauthier
Commissioners: Elana Aubrey and Luis Salazar
Alternate Commissioner: Marco Crescentini

HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION (HHC)

Meeting Minutes Monday, August 8, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 403 or virtually via Zoom - Meeting ID 857 0948 7585

Attendance: Paola Ferrario, Christopher Gauthier, Luis Salazar, Elana Aubrey (Virtual)

Municipal Staff: Jennifer Keitt, Development Specialist – Office of Planning & Economic Development

Others in Attendance: Gloria Caballero Roca, Gabriela Alcantara Pohls

- 1) Call to order – 5:33 p.m.
- 2) Review of minutes for May 9th, 2022, June 13th, 2020, and July 11th, 2022:

5/9/22 Minutes - Minor spelling, grammatical & contextual edits made.

Motion to approve the 5/9/22 minutes with minor revisions was made by Commissioner Aubrey and seconded by Commissioner Gauthier. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

6/13/22 Minutes - Minor spelling edit made.

Motion to approve the 6/13/22 minutes was made by Commissioner Aubrey and seconded by Commissioner Salazar. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

7/11/22 Minutes - Motion to table the 7/11/22 minutes for revision was made by Commissioner Aubrey and seconded by Commissioner Salazar. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

- 3) Preservation Of Historic Buildings Ordinance update

- a. Preparation for August City Council meeting – The proposed ordinance has been tabled. Only 8 out of 11 councilors would vote in favor. Need super majority. Commission to draft letter to the City Council explaining the role of the Commission.
- 4) Reports on progress with organization of archives (storage drive), and staff
- a. More documents continue to be added to the drive. It is disorganized. Meeting scheduled with the mayor and staff from OPED to discuss. Commissioner Aubrey suggests having an intern to assist with organizing.
- 5) Approval of letters of support for MA Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits
- a. Farr Alpaca Mill – MHC# HLY. 75. Reviewed new addendum to the project and new construction. Chair shared Historic Preservation Certification application.

Motion to approve the letter of support was made by Commissioner Salazar and seconded by Commissioner Aubrey. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

- 6) North High Street National Historic District possible development
- a. Approval of CLG Opinion Card for 302 High Street (ex-People United Bank Building).

CHI Universe wants to extend the North High Street Historic District. Discussion had. Will not vote to approve CLG Opinion Card tonight. More work needs to be researched and performed. One (of only two) example(s) of Brutalist, post WWII architecture in Holyoke. Chair wants to write letter to head of OPED expressing support of project.

- 7) Discussion and vote on bringing preservation restrictions agreements archives back to the Historical Commission from the Building Department. The Historical Commission will resume monitoring of preservation restrictions.

Reviewed the 1/13/2020 HHC Agenda/Minutes – #5c Preservation Restriction Policy. Chair inspected binders kept in Building Dept. Annual inspection of preservation restriction records required.

- 8) Certified Local Government Annual Report
- a. Revisions discussed and made.
 - b. Approval not voted on. Additional revisions needed.

10) CPA report

- a. Commissioner Elana Aubrey will be the next HHC representative on CPC. Term ends April 2023.
- b. Preservation Restriction for 348 Chestnut Street/48-52 Franklin Street – HLY.1102. Preservation restriction coming up for review.

Motion made to go back to #9 (accidentally skipped) was made by Commissioner Salazar, seconded by Commissioner Aubrey.

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

9) Discussion on current Commissioners' roles and expertise in relation to informing the public.

Want to have clearer defined rolls. Share work. Different people have different strengths. Uncovering additional responsibilities that fall under the commission's purview that had fallen to the wayside. Historical lack of mentoring for new commissioners. Commission wants agenda and accompanying documents sooner. Goal being 2 weeks ahead of time to allow time for review.

Motion to move on to #11 was made by Commissioner Salazar and seconded by Commissioner Aubrey. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

11) Historical Plaques Program: Text for instruction on Historic Plaques.

Chair considers terminating program. Maybe a preservation commission undertaking and not historical. Suggest plaque requesters check historical status on MACRIS. Commission doesn't have time to research houses historical preservation.

12) Announcements

Reminder to take conflict of interest law class. Consider taking class from CLG, let Chair know. Each commissioner to take something different.

13) New Business

Chair Ferrario shares info about upcoming Realtor Round Table invite. Commissioner Salazar expresses concern that the Historical Commission site isn't searchable. The website isn't working properly. Commission should be informed if the website goes down.

14) Old business

Chair went by One Holyoke project at 278-280 Pine. Chimney gone; original porch removed. All historic detail is lost completely. Chair checked records and went through minutes – Re: 1840 Northampton Street. The house does not belong to Holyoke Medical Center. City site

shows MassWest Services Inc. Sent letter to Holyoke Medical Center requesting information. Chair will follow up on status. Property currently boarded up. Tracking down people involved. Project never happened. No ruling ever made on property during prior historical commission meetings. Awaiting response to letter sent to HMC.

Mas DOT project #609385 – projects brought up by contractual firms. No response equals agreement with the project. Chair wants to review all letters signed and sent by prior chair for Mass DOT projects. Chair drafted response to letter received stating agreement with anticipated project.

15) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Salazar and seconded by Commissioner Aubrey.

Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

Forgot to set up new meeting for August. Chair places Motion to Adjourn on Table.

Motion to suspend the rules and schedule second meeting for August was made by Commissioner Aubrey and seconded by Commissioner Gauthier. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

Discussion had. Next Meeting scheduled for: 8/29/2022 at 5:30 p.m. Zoom only.

Motion to schedule meeting for 8/29/2022 at 5:30 p.m. was made by Commissioner Aubrey and seconded by Commissioner Gauthier. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Chair Ferrario Yes

September Meeting will remain the same – Monday, September 12, 2022.

Motion to Adjourn taken off the table.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.