



Mayor Joshua Garcia

Office of Planning and Economic Development

Historical Commission

Chair – Paola Ferrario

Vice Chair & Recording Secretary – Christopher Gauthier

Commissioners - Elana Aubrey, Lizabeth Rodriguez, Luis Salazar, Joseph Mazzola

HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION (HHC)

Meeting Minutes Monday, December 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Annex Conference Room 403 -or-

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 857 0948 7585/Telephone (646) 558-8656

Attendance: Paola Ferrario, Christopher Gauthier, Luis Salazar (via zoom) & Elana Aubrey (via zoom), Lizabeth Rodriguez (via zoom), Joseph Mazzola (via zoom)

Municipal Staff: Jennifer Keitt - Office of Planning & Economic Development

Attendees: Bill Womeldorf (virtual), Vadim Tulchinsky (virtual), Alec Busey (virtual), - 106-120 High Street & Peter Palombella – Hadley Falls Housing.

1) **Call to order** – 5:33 p.m.

2) **CPA -**

a. Review of scope of work for 106-120 High Street for future preservation restriction agreement -

Bill Womeldorf screenshared updates since the last meeting and discussion topics included: In-Fill of existing rear openings, removal of existing incinerator chimney; existing parge on rear facade; and construction of rear balcony.

b. Discussion on late applications -

Chair suggests an online platform for submission of applications with a finite deadline.

c. Discussion on requiring applicants to have a professional consultant for grants over \$50,000. -

Due to the specific recommendations and amount of documentation to apply, grants over \$50k should have a professional consultant assisting them in the application process. The Commission might consider offering workshops to educate people about the CPA process. Speaking with the Holyoke Taxpayers Association (HTA) to explain CPA process and historic grants was suggested.

3) **Vote on historical significance for 348 Chestnut-48-52 Franklin Street MHC# HLY 1102 -**

Building was never determined to be historically significant prior to applying for CPA funding.



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Motion to declare 348 Chestnut St/48-52 Franklin Street historically significant for the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System made by Commissioner Salazar. Seconded by Commissioner Aubrey. Roll call followed:

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

4) Discussion of New sidewalks for the Hadley Fall Company Housing National Historic District -

Peter Palombela of Hadley Falls Housing, spoke of City Councilor Rivera’s introduction of an order (City Council Meeting November, 2022), to redo sidewalks in the flats. Sidewalks around the Hadley Fall Company Housing National Historic District are dangerous and not properly handicap accessible. DPW was unaware of the historical nature of brick sidewalks. Multiple organizations were involved in an email chain discussing the sidewalks and a community meeting was recently held at the Flats Community Center. The building in question has a preservation restriction and is a national historic district but the sidewalks belong to and are the responsibility of the city. The city should be held responsible to restore in a way that is historically mindful. Preservation restriction shared on screen. Suggestion made that the owners of the buildings should organize. Chair will write to the City Engineer and DPW explaining the delicacy of the situation and ask that work not be done on the sidewalks until the commission has had an opportunity to explore the proper way to do it and see if funding is available. Chair will discuss preservation restrictions with the Legal Dept. Peter Palombella represents the Friends of the Hadley Falls Company housing district (18 members). There are 34 property owners total. This is not the first time that these sidewalks have been targeted for overhaul. Many neighbors continue to be concerned.

5) Approvals of letters of support for MA Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits -

- a. Farr Alpaca Mill – MHC# HLY 75
- b. 106-120 High Street – MHC# HLY 179
- c. 245 High Street – MHC# HLY 93
- d. 348 Chestnut, 48-52 Franklin Street MHC# HLY 1102

Motion to approve letters for the Farr Alpaca Mill 245 High Street, 348 Chestnut Street and 48-52 Franklin Street made by Commissioner Salazar.

Seconded by Commissioner Gauthier. Roll call followed:

- Commissioner Aubrey Yes
- Commissioner Mazzola Yes
- Commissioner Gauthier Yes
- Commissioner Salazar Yes
- Commissioner Rodriguez Yes



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- Chair Ferrario Yes
-

6) Blue Sky Tower III, wireless telecommunication facility at 939 Chicopee Street, Chicopee, MA site visit

Chair has been in contact with Christopher Lukas of Lukas Environmental. A new balloon will go up. Still trying to coordinate a site visit. This tower is expected to be discussed at the upcoming Chicopee Historical Commission meeting scheduled for 12/13/22. Chair and Vice Chair will attend to express the Commission's concerns and request continuing updates.

Screenshared letter written to City of Chicopee. Letter needs to be reworked. Will discuss further after attending the Chicopee Historical Commission meeting 12/13/22.

7) Meeting with prospective intern Trinity Kendrick -

Introduction of prospective intern. Graduate student at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island studying Historic Preservation. Undergraduate in Architectural Studies at Mount Holyoke. Oct 2021 - May 2022 National Park Service intern in Washington, DC. Main job was surveying historic structures in the national capital area and adding them to CRIS. Currently a graduate assistant at Roger Williams working on scanning archival materials. Previous archival work with a film studio. Can begin immediately. Intern to report strictly to the Historic Commission. Will meet next week, via email through subcommittee, to discuss what the Commission wants done.

Motion to offer Trinity Kendrick the opportunity to be the intern for the Holyoke Historic Commission made by Commissioner Aubrey. Seconded by Commissioner Salazar. Roll call followed:

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

8) Report from Commissioners attending other board and committee meetings -

Commissioner Mazzola attended the first TDI meeting for business owners. Uncertain if/when next meeting may occur. Chair would like to be invited to TDI meetings. Chair & Commissioner Aubrey attended last CPA meeting. At last meeting, discussion was had regarding increasing number of meetings to allow for CPA presentations. Concerns regarding lack of applications were expressed.



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9) New Business -

Damien Cote, Holyoke building commissioner, is stepping down as commissioner. The Commission agrees to send him a Thank You card.

OPED has offered to include monies in next year's line item to have the same pay service that the Conservation Commission uses to draft meeting minutes. Question as to whether or not other commissions that do have budgets need to seek City Council approval. If Commission can get that, there are a lot of more things the Commission needs money for. Will have to wait until January Finance Committee Meeting as they may have a long list of requests.

Discussion regarding the requested external drive. Chair received correspondence stating that a proposal needs to be sent via email, outlining what the drive is for and include the scope of work for the intern. Chair requested staff write letter but was told that the commission must write the letter. Chair has questions as to why that is the case. Staff unavailable to answer further. Commissioner Gauthier will draft the proposal. Commissioner Salazar will provide specifics regarding drive storage needs.

10) Old Business - None

11) Adjournment - 7:07 pm

Motion to Adjourn made by Commissioner Aubrey. Seconded by Commissioner Gauthier. Roll call followed:

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

Respectfully submitted