

Mayor Joshua Garcia

Office of Planning and Economic Development

City of Holyoke

Historical Commission

September 7, 2023

Holyoke City Council  
City of Holyoke  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Councilors:

Attached please find copies of Meeting Minutes from the meeting held on July 10, 2023 of the Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC), for your review.

As always, please contact me if there are any questions.

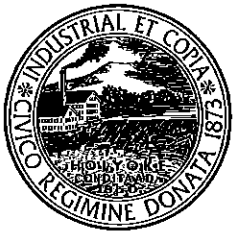
Sincerely,

Aaron M. Vega

RECEIVED

SEP - 7 2023

Holyoke City Clerk's  
Holyoke, MA



**July 23, 2023 -- Holyoke Historical Commission Minutes**

Present: Christopher Gauthier, Joseph Mazzola, Jean Jonker, Olivia Mausel

Absent: Luis Salazar, Elizabeth Rodriguez

Others: Peter Palombella, Jennifer Keitt (OPED), Alex (Voces de Esperanza), William Womeldorf (Wright Block)

Called to order 5:35

No Public comment

Alex from Voces de Esperanza requests a letter of support for the August round of Historic Tax Credits. He mentioned the updates since the last letter: brick has been repointed, windows in progress as mentioned in Stage 1 and Stage 2. The next stage will address the front steps at #48 and # 52 in the fall. Major work will be done on the bodega with a 'move in' date set for October. Construction will probably go into Feb., and we expect to be back to you in January for another letter of support. To date we have \$480,000 tax credits (20% is eligible). Right now, the cost is \$1,677,000 and we have about \$200,000 to request. We appreciate your support and it's not possible without you. Thank you!

Motion: Joseph M. makes the motion to update the letter of support for #48/52 Franklin St./Chestnut St. (2<sup>nd</sup>: Olivia M., none opposed)



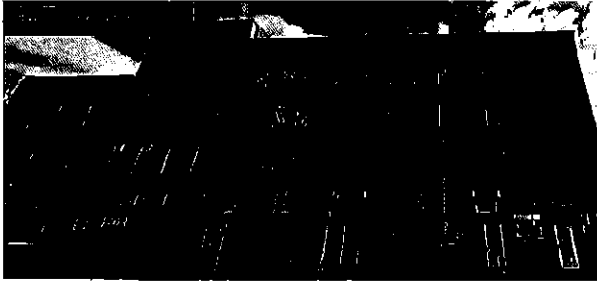
48-52 Franklin/348 Chestnut



Wright block- William Womeldorf asked if the Preservation Restriction – (PR) with CPA has been signed by the Historical Commission. Chris G. has not seen the PR yet. Their attorney has reviewed it and they are good with it now.

They are also will need a letter of support for the August rounds of Historic Tax Credits. They have initial approval from the National Park Service (approved the 106-108 tower) and will make the porches smaller and bring in the guard rails near the roof line so they're not seen from the street.

Motion by Jean Jonker to update the letter of support (2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph M. none opposed) Approved



106 Wright Block



rear 106 Wright

CPA proposal- tabled for August meeting.

2015 By-laws review- tabled for August meeting.

Pioneer Valley proposal from Shannon Walsh discussion. The City Council approved \$35,000 to go toward with this proposal. The proposal needs to be reviewed by the committee. The purpose of Shannon's proposal is to provide planning support in the form of an historic advisor to the city and other commissions as needed. Chris and Jennifer will check with procurement about the details of payment re: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was specified.

Also \$35,000 from the Mass Gaming mitigation fund was rewarded to implement the Historic tourism plan created by Shannon in 2021. (end date: 2026/2027). Jennifer will check to see if other departments need to weight in. She will check on the process.

Discussion on meeting with other departments in the city: LHD, problem properties, Building, etc. to help clarify information, set goals and co-ordinate efforts.

The Historical Commission will not have access to the City's computer drive. Only employees/department heads have access.

35 Dwight St. owner is repointing and working on the building. This is a possible owner:

Khaika Construction

63-62 Saunders ST.

Rego Park, N.Y. 11375

917-601-9986

Chris is going to contact them.

Workshop on Preservation Restrictions is needed. Perhaps Shannon W. from PVPC can help.

Marla Miller from UMass History Dept. may have grad students available for work with the two Historical Commissions. ([MMiller@history.umass.edu](mailto:MMiller@history.umass.edu), She suggested the following: Samuel Redman <[sredman@history.umass.edu](mailto:sredman@history.umass.edu)>, Jon Olsen <[jon@history.umass.edu](mailto:jon@history.umass.edu)>, Diana Sierra Becerra <[dianasierrab@umass.edu](mailto:dianasierrab@umass.edu)>, Eldra Dominique Walker <[eldrawalker@umass.edu](mailto:eldrawalker@umass.edu)>).

What about Trinity, the last intern? More discussion is needed.

Other news: 150<sup>th</sup> updates from Jean -volunteers needed on Gala committee, silent auction, and time capsule committees.

Olivia reported that the 'Belfor the Doc. Recovery project' has returned 33 boxes of cleaned, sanitized, and vacuumed journals and ledges from the 1800's-1900's. More information to follow. This is a gold mine!

Joseph reported that the Problem Properties Committee is difficult for him to attend due to his busy noontime store hours. There may be other commissioners who can take his place depending on the day, time, and historic nature of the properties. Jennifer will check with the committee. Peter Palombella offered to represent the Trust at other meetings such as building, Board of Health, Fire, etc.

27-29 Cabot has been partially demolished for more than a year. What is the problem? Why?



27-29 Cabot St.

Chris asks for help on the problem 144 High St. demolished back wall. He is not getting answers from the owners or other departments involved. What is the status. He would like a stop-work order on the project until the plans are submitted to the Historical Commission. He is checking with the legal department. To be continued in August.



144 High former front

former rear of 144

Current images to follow

Old business:

Friends of Hadley Falls Housing District are seeking ways to improve their broken brick sidewalks. A consultant has suggested that there should be a yearly review of the conditions of this NR district and make plans to correct any necessary issues (broken bricks/broken shutters). The easements need to be reviewed, updated, and enforced by the overruling department/ organization. (One Holyoke CDC or Historical Commission)

Historic House Plaque application needs to be reviewed in August. (See attached)

No further business- adjourned

Next meeting: Aug. 14 @ 5:30

Warm Regards,

Christopher Gauthier  
Holyoke Historical Commission Chairperson