



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Minutes ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Vincent Walsh

Thursday, April 4, 2024

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on April 4, 2024 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Vincent Walsh	Chair, RAPV Representative	Remote	
Alfonso Nardi	Vice-Chair	Remote	
Judith Crowell	CPC Representative	Present	
Walter Kroll		Present	
Marisa Zorzi		Present	

II. Acceptance of Minutes

1. Thursday, February 15, 2024
2. Thursday, March 21, 2024

III. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 7901)

91-97 Chestnut Street

91-97 Chestnut Street: Installation of murals to either side of building

HISTORY:

02/15/24 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

03/21/24 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 04/04/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Petitioner requested additional time for their application prior to the meeting. No further discussion by the Commission.

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/18/2024 5:30 PM
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi	

2. Petition (ID # 7841)

1105 Worthington Street

1105 Worthington Street: Roof replacement, solar installation, and interpretive signage

HISTORY:

01/18/24 Historical Commission **LAY ON TABLE**
02/01/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
02/15/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
03/21/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 04/04/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Principal Planner, Alvin Allen, informed the Commission that he had received a letter from Mr. David Gaby, the petitioner, requesting a thirty-day extension to the deadline for the matter, and proceeded to show said letter to the Commission. Commissioner Kroll inquired as to why Mr. Gaby needed an extension. Mr. Allen stated that the extension was needed due to the deadline for the Commission to decide on the matter occurring prior to the next meeting date.

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/18/2024 5:30 PM
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi	

3. Petition (ID # 7947)

208 Belmont Avenue

208 Belmont Avenue: Front porch renovations (floor, columns, railings, lattice)

HISTORY:

03/21/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 04/04/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Principal Planner, Alvin Allen, informed the Commission that he would be receiving a request from the petitioner for a thirty-day extension to the deadline of the application. Commissioner Kroll asked why the item needed an extension to which Mr. Allen stated that the extension was needed due to the deadline for the Commission to decide on the matter occurring prior to the next meeting date.

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/18/2024 5:30 PM
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi	

4. Petition (ID # 7950)

134 Buckingham Street

134 Buckingham Street: Replacement windows

HISTORY:

03/21/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 04/04/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Principal Planner, Alvin Allen, stated to the Commission that the petitioner had informed him that he needed more time to explore other appropriate window models to present to the Commission.

RESULT: CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
AYES: Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi

Next: 4/18/2024 5:30 PM

IV. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 7960)

65 Sumner Avenue

65 Sumner Avenue: Several exterior renovations converting former commercial building to school/administration operations building

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: James Fiore and John Cardigan spoke on behalf of the petitioner, the City of Springfield. Mr. Fiore stated that it was the City of Springfield's, the property owner, intent to renovate the former Friendly's restaurant building and turn it into a new preschool for the Springfield Public Schools. Mr. Fiore stated that they would be adhering to the Commission's guidelines and that the building would be designed in a manner that is appropriate to the district. Mr. Fiore stated that most of the work would be to the interior of the property. Mr. Fiore stated that the parking lot would be extended to connect to the adjacent Sumner Avenue School to improve traffic flow between the two schools and to address safety concerns. Mr. Cardigan stated that the parking lot alterations are being done purely due to safety concerns with the current parking lot. Mr. Fiore also stated that the number of parking spots would be reduced from 92 to 84 in order to achieve better traffic circulation between the preschool and the Sumner Avenue School. Mr. Fiore also stated that they will be removing the current fencing along the exterior of the property with the exception of installing a 4 ft high aluminum fence enclosing the preschool play area in the rear of the property. Mr. Fiore also stated that they will install a new chain-link fence enclosure surrounding the dumpster area in the rear of the property, and that they will rehabilitate the dumpster area to include storage facilities for equipment. Mr. Fiore also stated that the sign in the front of the property will be demolished and replaced with a new more low-profile and smaller sign in the same location. Mr. Fiore and Cardigan also stated that the roof profile will not change but that they will replace the roof with in-kind materials and stated that the cupola would be replaced with an in-kind replacement as well. Mr. Fiore and Mr. Cardigan went on to state that all siding and trim would be replaced with in-kind replacements, and that any existing trim or siding would be painted. Mr. Fiore and Mr. Cardigan stated that the cement foundation would be repaired and painted. Mr. Cardigan stated that they would also be installing new windows to the exterior of the building and will match the previous windows but that the new models would be able to be opened. Mr. Cardigan also stated that they would install new storefront doors on the west elevation of the building and on the south elevation of the building to replace the existing doors. Commissioner Nardi then asked if the rendering would involve the cleaning of brick to which the petitioners stated yes. Commissioner Nardi asked if the project would involve the installation of trees around the playground area to which Mr. Cardigan and Mr. Fiore could not answer. Commissioner Nardi then asked if there would be any landscape work to be done around the front

of the property to which Mr. Fiore and Mr. Cardigan stated that landscape work would be consist primarily of maintenance of the existing landscaping work that was done on the property. Mr. Fiore stated that their goal was to leave as much of the shrubbery in place as possible in a way that was aesthetically pleasing. Commissioner Nardi also asked if there were any plans for solar panel installation to the back of the roof to which Mr. Fiore and Mr. Cardigan stated that to do such work would involve modification of the existing roof's profile, and that there were no plans at the moment. Mr. Fiore and Mr. Cardigan added that they might consider the removal and installation of new trees along the right side of the property.

Public Comments: Cathy Post spoke in favor of the application, Harry Seymour spoke in favor of the application

Motion: Approval of the application for certificate of appropriateness

Decision: Approved

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi

2. Petition (ID # 7961)

54 Buckingham Street

54 Buckingham Street: Front and side porch renovations, in addition to modification to rear egress landing.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Geraldine Brown, the property owner, and Scott Roth, the contractor for the petitioner, spoke on behalf of the matter. Mr. Roth stated that they would be doing work on the left side of the front porch, and that their goal was to maintain and restore it to its original state. Mr. Roth stated that they would be stabilizing the front porch and add new structures underneath the porch to support the structure. Mr. Roth stated that they would be replacing the flooring of the porch with tongue and groove flooring, and that they would mirror the existing black pipe handrail on the front porch on the left side portion of the front porch. Mr. Roth stated that they would mirror the existing supports on the porch with new supports. Mr. Roth stated that he would be building a new deck off of the rear entrance/exit of the house. Commissioner Kroll asked if the spindles would stay the same and if they would replace all floor boards to be cedar tongue and groove replacements. Mr. Roth stated that the original columns would be repaired and that he would install cedar tongue and groove flooring to the rear entrance. Mr. Roth also stated that he would continue the cedar skirt that runs along the bottom of portions of the front porch to cover the entire front porch. Mr. Roth also stated that all replacement handrails would match the existing handrails. Mr. Roth stated that the stairs of the front porch would not be changed, and that they would add a two-step granite slab extension to the front steps. Commissioner

Walsh stated that the original bottom of the porch was made of square lattice and that it might be easier for the petitioners to replicate that lattice which Mr. Roth stated that they could replicate the original lattice. Commissioner Zorzi asked if the lattice located along of the left side of the porch could be duplicated. To which Commissioner Walsh stated that they did not have to be duplicated as the existing lattice was not actually original to the property but was likely an addition made after the house was built. Principal Planner, Alvin Allen, asked if the side entrance would be altered to which the petitioner stated that they would be adding a two-step concrete stair with a black pipe railing. Commissioner Kroll then added that the replacement steps should be of a similar style to those of the front porch steps. Commissioner Walsh added that the rear entrance should model the original style of the house. The petitioner stated that the rear porch would match the front porch as well and will add a set of concrete stairs coming down along the side of the rear entrance with a structure comprised of cedar deck boards and lattice around the bottom of the deck and a black pipe handrail running along the side of the entryway.

Public Comments: Harry Seymour spoke in favor of the application.

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness with the stipulation that the new structures installed on the side and rear of the property mirror the design of the front porch.

Decision: Approved

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi

V. Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings

VI. Environmental Reviews

VII. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 7962)

CPA Historic Determinations / Project Reviews

Discussion: Community Preservation Act Historic Determinations / Project Reviews

a) **Colony Hills LHD:** Request of CPA funds for restoration of deteriorated lamp posts

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Colony Hills LHD: Request of CPA Funds for restoration of deteriorated lamp posts

Discussion: The petitioner stated that it was the desire of the Colony Hills Neighborhood Association to rehabilitate six street lamps and to recognize that those street lamps present in Colony Hills were original to the area and had

numerous repairs since being created. The petitioner stated that the CPA had previously given funding to the traffic island located near the entrance to the neighborhood. The petitioner added that 6 street lamps were in advanced stages of decay and needed to be removed and repaired to their original state. Commissioner Kroll stated to the petitioner that the Commission did not have the authority to approve funds for the project. Commissioner Kroll added that the Commission could deem the lamps historically significant and decide if the project was appropriate per the CPA and historic guidelines. To which the petitioner stated that he was aware of that. The petitioner stated that they would be returning the lamps to their original state. Commissioner Nardi added that the lamps complimented the entire streetscape and should be protected as a group rather than individually.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Lamp posts were determined to be of historical significance / Approved issuance of a letter of support.

Decision: Letter of support issued and lamp posts deemed historically significant.

RESULT: RECEIVED THE REPORT-PASSED

2. Informational (ID # 7963)

665 Cottage Street

665 Cottage Street: Section 106 Review

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: The petitioner stated that they are conducting a Section 106 Review in order to expand the current facility specifically in the back of the property. The petitioner added that they would be expanding their storage facility and add additional electric chargers for PVTA buses to utilize. The petitioner went on to say that the project will not involve expanding the extents of the property itself and will be mostly dealing with underground and interior construction. The petitioner indicated that there were no historic buildings or landmarks near the facility. The petitioner added that the project would involve the removal of trees along the back of the facility in order to maximize the space of the facility. The petitioner stated that the trees would be removed to be replaced with new electric chargers. The petitioner also stated that they would expand an area in the rear of the property and build a new extension that accommodates the painting of vehicles on the premises. Commissioner Walsh then asked for clarification that this matter was just for a certificate for no adverse impact to which Commissioner Kroll stated, "yes", and added that there were no historically significant buildings in the area. Commissioner Nardi asked how much electricity would be drawn from the community to which the petitioner stated that they plan to install solar panels to the property for added electrical capacity, and that they would

charge the vehicles overnight to avoid daytime consumption. The petitioner also stated that they will work with Eversource to look into the installation of on-site transformers for further electrical independence of the facility from the surrounding community.

Public Comments: None

Motion: To issue a finding of no adverse impact to the site and the surrounding community.

Decision: No Adverse Impact Found

RESULT: RECEIVED THE REPORT-PASSED

3. Informational (ID # 7952)

Public Speak-Out Session

Public Speak-Out Session

HISTORY:

03/21/24 Historical Commission

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

No discussion occurred.