



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Minutes ~

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

Vincent Walsh

Thursday, May 2, 2024

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on May 2, 2024 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes

1. Thursday, April 18, 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

04/04/24 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 04/18/24

04/18/24 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 05/02/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Principal Planner Alvin Allen stated that the petitioner had informed him that they would not be in attendance for the meeting and had requested a continuance of their application. Commissioner Walsh asked Principal Planner Allen if there was a limit on the number of times applicants could request an extension. Principal Planner Allen stated that there was not a limit to the number of extensions they could request.

Public Comment: None

Motion: To continue the matter to the next available meeting (05/16/2024)

Decision: Continued

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/16/2024 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	
04/04/24	Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 04/18/24	
04/18/24	Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 05/02/24	

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: David Gaby spoke on the matter. Commissioner Walsh asked Mr. Gaby what the material of the original roof was to which Mr. Gaby stated that the roof was originally asphalt, and added that the new solar panels would be built into the roof and that all conduits would be located inside the roof of the house. Mr. Gaby then stated that he had numerous conversations with Eversource Electric Company, and stated that Eversource was requiring him to put the meter for the solar panels on the left side of the property. Mr. Gaby then added that he would be planting shrubbery in order to better conceal the new meter. Commissioner Kroll then asked if the solar panels would be built into the roof to which Mr. Gaby stated, "Yes". Mr. Gaby then stated that the electrical conduits would go directly into the wall and not be located on the exterior of the property, and again stated that shrubbery would be added to better conceal the meter.

Public Comment: Harry Seymour spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness

Decision: Approved

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
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

04/04/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 04/18/24

04/18/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 05/02/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Principal Planner Alvin Allen stated that the petitioner had informed him that they would not be in attendance for the meeting and had requested a continuance of their application.

Public Comment: None

Motion: To continue the matter to the next available meeting (05/16/2024)

Decision: Continued

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/16/2024 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

04/04/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 04/18/24

04/18/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 05/02/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Joe Johnson spoke on the matter. Commissioner Walsh asked to see an updated quote for the new windows to which one was provided. Commissioner Walsh then asked on the status of the window design to which an updated model was shown. Principal Planner Allen then asked Mr.

Johnson if the new window models would have grids to which Mr. Johnson stated that the new models would not have any grids on them.

Public Comment: David Gaby spoke in favor of the application; Steven Howard spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness

Decision: Approved

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

5. Petition (ID # 7984)

92 Buckingham Street

92 Buckingham Street: Porch railing modifications, following 1/19/2024 porch renovation approval by SHC.

HISTORY:

04/18/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 05/02/24

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Ann Haughton spoke on the matter. Commissioner Walsh read the description of work section of the application to the Commission. Ms. Haughton stated that she had talked with her contractor and was able to install tops to the railings that were rounded, as were recommended to Ms. Haughton by Commissioner Nardi at the last meeting. Ms. Haughton also stated that the contractor will be redesigning the rails to match the design of the previously installed railings, including the decorative pieces along the porch columns connected to the railings. Ms. Haughton stated that the railings would need to remain at the altered 38-inch height. Ms. Haughton was then asked by Commissioner Crowell if she would be installing a bottom channel to the new railings to resemble the bottom channel of the original railings. Ms. Haughton stated that the contractor was instructed to model the new railings design off of the previous railings design. Ms. Haughton then stated that they would be using pressure treated wood for the new railings. Principal Planner Alvin Allen then recommended the Commission add a stipulation that the new railings be painted within a year of installation.

Public Comment: Harry Seymour spoke in favor of the application; Steven Howard spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of hardship with the stipulation that any pressure treated wood be painted within one year of installation

Decision: Approved

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

IV. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 8007)

186 Belmont Avenue

186 Belmont Avenue: Replace rear deck/stairs, wood to Trex composite

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Dan Rodriguez spoke on behalf of the petitioner. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the rear porch structure of the property would be replaced. Mr. Rodriguez added that the floor boards of the structure would be altered to be made of brown Trex composite decking. Mr. Rodriguez added that all other aspects of the porch would be the same as the original porch structure. Commissioner Walsh then stated that the change in decking material would change the application to appropriateness and asked Mr. Rodriguez to change the application to appropriateness which Mr. Rodriguez agreed. Mr. Rodriguez then stated that the original handrail would have to be changed to be code compliant and of a more grip-able model.

Public Comment: Steven Howard spoke in favor of the application; David Gaby spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness

Decision: Approved

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

2. Petition (ID # 8008)

133 Longhill Street

133 Longhill Street: Replacement roof, slate to asphalt

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Dimitry Mozolevskiy and Sergiy Suheen spoke on the matter. Mr. Mozolevskiy and Mr. Suheen stated that they would be replacing the entire roof with asphalt shingles. Mr. Suheen added that the new shingles would mimic the original slate roof of the house. Mr. Suheen explained that, due to the high cost of repairing or replacing the roof with slate, the only feasible option for replacing the roof was to install asphalt shingles. Commissioner

Walsh inquired on the scale of the roof installation to which Mr. Suheen stated that it would be a total removal of the old roof and installation of a new roof. Commissioner Nardi inquired on what plans there were for the original slate roof material once removed. Mr. Suheen stated that they did not have a plan for the leftover slate. Commissioner Nardi then asked if the petitioners explored selling the slate and utilizing the funds to offset the cost of the new roof installation. Mr. Suheen stated that they would consider that option. Commissioner Walsh asked if the garage would be replaced with the same type of roof as the main house to which Mr. Suheen stated yes. Commissioner Walsh then asked if the petitioners had considered GAF slate-mimicking shingles. Mr. Suheen stated that they were not familiar with that model. Commissioner Walsh then asked the petitioners if they would be amenable to a continuance of the matter to give them more time to gather information on other roof options. Mr. Suheen stated that they had looked at several options and that the model proposed was the one deemed most appropriate. Commissioner Walsh then asked if any commissioner would make a motion for a continuance of the matter to which no motion was given.

Public Comment: Siobhan Silver spoke in opposition to the application (by letter), David Gaby spoke in opposition to the application, Steven Howard spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To accept the application for a certificate of appropriateness

Decision: Approved

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

3. Petition (ID # 8009)

355 Maple Street

355 Maple Street: Installation of solar panels

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Rob Decker of Sun Run spoke on behalf of the petitioner. Mr. Decker stated that they would be installing solar panels to the rear of the property and that all meters were to be located on the left side of house. Mr. Decker added that a conduit would run along the top of the roof and be painted to match exterior color of roof. Commissioner Walsh asked if the conduit could be located in another non-visible location such as inside the attic. The petitioner stated that they could place the conduit unit inside the attic or in another more non-visible location. Commissioner Walsh proposed the Commission add a stipulation to the certificate that the conduit be located in a non-visible location.

Public Comment: David Gaby spoke in opposition to the application

Motion: To accept the application for a certificate of appropriateness with the stipulation that conduits be located in a non-visible location and for any external conduits be painted to match the exterior of the house

Decision: Approved

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

4. Petition (ID # 8010)

115 Garfield Street

115 Garfield Street: Installation of solar panels

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Rob Decker of Sun Run spoke on behalf of the petitioner. Mr. Decker stated that they would be installing solar panels to the front and rear portions of the roof of the house. Mr. Decker added that all meters would be located on left front corner of house. Commissioner Walsh advised that the Commission stipulate that all conduit units be located in a non-visible location of the house, and that any exterior conduits be painted to match the exterior of the house.

Public Comment: David Gaby spoke in opposition to the application; Steven Howard spoke in favor of the application

Motion: To approve the application for a certificate of appropriateness with the stipulation that conduits be located in a non-visible location and for any external conduits be painted to match the exterior of the house

Decision: Approved

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

V. Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings

VI. Preservation Agreements

1. Petition (ID # 7985)

94-96 Byers Street

94-96 Byers Street: Replacement windows

HISTORY:**04/18/24****Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE****Next: 05/02/24****COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

Discussion: Pavlo Yusenko spoke on behalf of the petitioner. Commissioner Nardi reported to the Commission on the site visit scheduled for the property on 04/23/2024. Commissioner Nardi stated that the majority of the windows were original with some vinyl replacement models in existence. Commissioner Nardi went on to say that the newly proposed window designs would be based off of the existing vinyl models, and not off of the original windows' designs. Commissioner Walsh then asked if any original windows could be repaired to which Mr. Yusenko stated that they could not be repaired, and cited that the original windows could not be opened as a reason for the replacement of the windows. Commissioner Walsh stated that a window's ability to open or close was not a sufficient reason to replace the original windows. Commissioner Kroll stated that most of the windows had exterior screens, and that the channels on a number of the original windows looked to have been already replaced with newer models. Commissioner Walsh then asked if the owner had explored options involving the repair of the original windows. Mr. Yusenko stated that the owner informed him that they were seeking only to replace the original windows. Commissioner Nardi stated that in his opinion the original window could be repaired and that the original windows were in good condition.

Commissioner Kroll concurred and added that due to the existence of storm doors the windows were protected from possible weather damage. Commissioner Walsh stated that he was inclined to decline the application as the windows appear to be able to be repaired and salvaged. Commissioner Kroll asked for clarity on what aspects of the house were controlled by the Commission under the preservation agreement. Commissioner Walsh stated that under the preservation agreement the Commission controlled any alterations to the exterior of the property that could be seen from a public way.

Public Comment: David Gaby spoke in opposition to the application

Motion: To approve the application for work under a preservation agreement

Decision: Denied

RESULT: FAILED [2 TO 3]**AYES:** Judith Crowell, Marisa Zorzi**NAYS:** Vincent Walsh, Alfonso Nardi, Walter Kroll**VII. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission****1. Informational (ID # 8011)**

Discussion: Expansion of McKnight Local Historic District

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COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: David Gaby spoke to advocate for the expansion of the local historic district in the McKnight neighborhood to cover the entirety of the McKnight National Registered District. Mr. Gaby added that the expansion is needed to ensure equity of resources for individuals living in the National Register District. Mr. Gaby emphasized the need for individuals living in the National Register District be entitled to the same resources as those in the local historic districts. Commissioner Walsh stated that this matter would likely take multiple meetings and time to be accomplished. Commissioner Walsh added that the study process for national register districts needed to be looked into by the Office of Planning and Economic Development. Commissioner Nardi stated that the Commission cannot support the study until other homeowners are notified and that they should wait for more information could be gathered.

Public Comment: None

Motion: None

Decision: None

2. Informational (ID # 8012)

Public Speak-Out Session

Public Speak-Out Session

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion: Attorney Robert Shewchuk read the policy of open meeting law concerning public speak-out and emphasized that, apart from the public speak-out section, comments on other matters should be restricted to either for or against. Yolanda Thomas spoke to advocate for the expansion of the McKnight historic district, and advocated the need for houses in the National Register districts to have the same resources as those in local historic districts. Commissioner Walsh then explained that the Commission's goal is the preservation of historic structures. Harry Seymour spoke to inquire on the status of any proposed revisions to the historic guidelines. Commissioner Walsh stated that the Planning Department was in the process of analyzing the existing guidelines for historic districts. Regina Hall spoke to raise concerns regarding the lack of maintenance of historic buildings, and to emphasized the need for more resources to be allocated by the City of Springfield for the preservation of historic homes. Steven Howard spoke to raise concerns regarding the rising cost of living in the City of Springfield. Karen King spoke to support what had been stated by Ms. Thomas regarding the expansion of the McKnight Local Historic District.

Commissioner Walsh stated that the Commission could issue letters of support but could not provide funding or financing of any kind to individuals/organizations.

Public Comment: None

Motion: None

Decision: None