



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Minutes ~

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

Vincent Walsh

Thursday, January 16, 2025

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on January 16, 2025 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes

1. Thursday, December 19, 2024

III. Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings

1. Informational (ID # 8405)

ES Oak Street, 09182-0219 (Former Indian Orchard Fire Station) (Demolish Rear Ancillary Building)

ES OAK STREET, 09182-0219 (FORMER INDIAN ORCHARD FIRE STATION): Deconstruction of Rear Ancillary Building Connected to the Rear Portion of the Former Fire Station

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Chair A. Nardi moved this agenda to the front of the agenda after the acceptance of minutes.

Jim Hanifan was before the Commission to present the application to waive the nine month demolition delay restriction for the rear ancillary building.

J. Hanifan advised that the rear ancillary building was not furnished, nor was it insulated. The roof is failing and in disrepair and that the cost to restore the structure was too significant.

Chair A. Nardi confirmed that the original building would not be changed or altered.

Stephen Burrell from 48 Clarendon Street inquired about what the future use of the property would be and who owned the property. J. Hanifan responded that the City owns the property and that it will go out to Request for Proposal in the future, which will determine the use of the property.

Commissioner J. Corwell made a motion to grant the waiver and lift the nine month demolition delay restriction for the rear ancillary building. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner W. Kroll. Commissioner W. Kroll confirmed that there was no submitted written public comment. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT: PASSED VOICE VOTE

IV. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8375)

25 Marengo Park: Roof and Solar Panels

25 Marengo Park: Replace slate roof with asphalt. Installation of solar panels.

HISTORY:

12/05/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 12/19/24

12/19/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 01/16/25

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

S. Jones was back before the Commission with the landowner, Wandysbel Avila.

The hearing related two applications before the Commission - a Certificate of Hardship and a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Certificate of Hardship

S. Jones informed the Commission that the slate roof was damaged and in disrepair, resulting in leaking.

Commissioners A. Nardi and W. Kroll informed the rest of the Commission that at the scheduled site visit, they observed that the roof was in significant disrepair. While the roof looked like it was in a good state, when up close, one could certainly observe that the roof was damaged and that moss was growing through the slate shingles. Chair A. Nardi advised that he observed slate on the ground that had fallen from the roof and that the roof was needing to be replaced.

S. Jones informed the Commission of the internal damage to the house that was happening because of the roof.

Chair A. Nardi read the public statement submitted by Ralph Slate of 270 Longhill Street.

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road provided public comment, advising that losing a slate roof is always a shame; however, defers to the Commission opinion since they had conducted a site visit.

The Commission found that the conditions were worse than expected. S. Jones confirmed with the Commission that the roof is not just being replaced for the purposes of installing solar powered panels, but that the roof was damaged.

Commissioner J. Crowell made a motion to replace the slate roof with architectural shingles, to replace the ice and water shield and under-layment, as well as to replace the rotted plywood if needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zordi. The Commission confirmed that the color of the shingles would be granite black. The motion was approved unanimously.

Certificate of Appropriateness

S. Jones and W. Avila were again in front of the Commission to present the application.

S. Jones informed the Commission that they would be installing 13 panels with eco-fastening brackets into the rafters. The conduits will be under the proposed panels and pipe down into the basement through the roof.

Commissioner W. Kroll inquired about whether the conduit will be placed on the outside of the building. S. Jones responded by advised that the piping will be inside the house and pipe down into the basement. The conduit will not be visible from the road, and they are going to request that the meters be placed near Roof Section 6 (as labeled on the plans).

No public comment was provided.

Commissioner W. Kroll made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness to install solar panels at the subject property with no conduit along the roof, that meters and wall switches are along the rear of the house, that the conduit will go up the wall and into the attic so that it is not seen from the road.

Commissioner J. Crowell asked if the conduit should be painted to match the color of the house. Chair A. Nardi advised that the house was stucco, thus painting may not be an option.

The motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Judith Crowell, CPC Representative
SECONDER:	Marisa Zorzi
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi, Nespor

2. Petition (ID # 8387)

90 Garfield Street

90 GARFIELD STREET: Replacement and Installation of First and Second Floor Windows

HISTORY:

12/19/24 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 01/16/25

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Staff Member A. Strniste inform the Commission that the Petitioner requested a 30-day extension.

Commissioner Kroll made a motion to grant the 30-day extension and to continue the hearing to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi. No discussion ensued, and therefore, the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/6/2025 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Walter Kroll, Vice-Chair	
SECONDER:	Marisa Zorzi	
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi, Nespor	

V. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 8400)

51 Clarendon Street (

51 CLARENDON STREET: Repair Front Porch and Porch Windows

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Aimee Giroux and Joseph Shoebell were before the Commission on behalf of the Petitioners to present the petition.

The Petitioners had applied for a grant through Habitat for Humanity to repair the front porch and second floor porch windows. There were many repairs necessary due to code violations. The Petitioners were wanting to rebuild in the same style. The front porch will be rebuilt with pressure treated wood with fir tongue and groove wood on top.

The Commission acknowledged their appreciation for the scope of work; Chair A. Nardi went through the scope of work with the representatives. Chair A. Nardi confirmed that the lattice design will be the same. J. Shoebell advised that the porch will not be repainted, but rather sealed. A. Giroux advised that only second floor the windows will be replaced.

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road provided his supported the application.

Commissioner V. Nespor made a motion to approved the project as provided in the Scope of Work and proposed during the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner W. Kroll. Commissioner V. Walsh opined that the project outline was well put together. Commission W. Kroll inquired about the railings relating to the steps; A. Giroux responded that the railing is currently a pipe railing, which will remain.

The motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Vana Nespor
SECONDER:	Walter Kroll, Vice-Chair
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi, Nespor

2. Petition (ID # 8401)

77 Maple Street (Renovations)

77 MAPLE STREET: Exterior Renovations

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Prior to the meeting, Staff discovered that there was a Preservation Restriction pertaining to the property held by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The application was subsequently withdrawn by the Petitioner and will re-file the application once Massachusetts Historical Commission reviews the project.

RESULT:	WITHDRAWN
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3. Petition (ID # 8402)

34 Westernview Avenue (Solar Panel Conduit)

34 WESTERNVIEW AVENUE: Remediation of Solar Panel Conduit Location (In Response to Stop Work Order Dated August 23, 2024)

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Zack from Venture Solar was before the Commission to present the Petition on behalf of the Applicant.

Zack had informed the Commission that there was miscommunication about the placement of the conduit, as the conduit was installed where it was visible from the public right-of-way. Venture Solar is looking to re-route the conduit back through the basement on the

backside of the house where it will no longer be visible from the right-of-way, which was the original proposal approved by the Commission. The removal of the conduit will result in small quarter inch screwed, which will be filled and match the existing stucco.

No public comment was provided.

Commissioner W. Kroll made a motion to accept the relocation of the conduit back to original location presented and approved by the Springfield Historical Commission previously. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi. No discussion ensued and the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Walter Kroll, Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	Marisa Zorzi
AYES:	Walsh, Nardi, Crowell, Kroll, Zorzi, Nespor

4. Petition (ID # 8403)

Creation of the Birnie-Taylor-Lay Block Local Historical District

CREATION OF THE BIRNIE-TAYLOR-LAY BLOCK LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: 68-70, 76 & 84-88 Byers Street

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Prior to the evening's meeting, Staff discovered that there were some process issues relating to the proposed Local Historic District and that the process would need to be restarted. Therefore, the application to create the Birnie-Taylor-Lay Block was withdrawn and will be re-filed at a later date.

RESULT:	WITHDRAWN
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VI. Preservation Agreements

1. Petition (ID # 8404)

7-9 Stockbridge Street

7-9 STOCKBRIDGE STREET: Replace Roof

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Thomas O'Neil was before the Commission to present the Petition on behalf of the Springfield Preservation Trust.

Commissioners M. Zorzi and V. Nesport recused themselves due to conflicts of interest.

T. O'Neil advised that the Springfield Preservation Trust was looking to replace the existing roof and repair the masonry work. The project is moving forward in conformance with the recommendations made from Shannon Walsh from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. T. O'Neil advised that the mortar will be similar to what is existing and that the materials will be sent for testing - specifically for the color and materials.

Chair A. Nardi asked if there were any problems identified by the architect; T. O'Neil answered that one problem would be that there was no easy access to the roof.

Staff Member A. Strniste advised that the hearing was only noticed to include the replacement roof based on what was written on the application. T. O'Neil advised that the scope had changed slightly since the submission of the application and that they were looking to include the mortar now. Staff Member A. Allen advised that since the mortar

work would be in-kind, that that part could be categorized as non-applicability. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner J. Crowell made a motion to approve the roof replacement and the re-pointing and repair of the brick facade. The motion was seconded by Commissioner W. Kroll. No discussion ensued and the motion was approved unanimously with Commissioners M. Zorzi and V. Nespor abstaining.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Judith Crowell, CPC Representative
SECONDER:	Walter Kroll, Vice-Chair
AYES:	Vincent Walsh, Alfonso Nardi, Judith Crowell, Walter Kroll
ABSTAIN:	Marisa Zorzi, Vana Nespor

VII. Other Matters Property Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 8406)

Letter of Support (70 Chestnut Street - Rehabilitation Project)

LETTER OF SUPPORT: 70 Chestnut Street (Hotel Stonehaven) - Rehabilitation Project

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The representative for this matter was unable to attend the evening's meeting, and therefore, this agenda item was moved to the February 6 meeting.

2. Informational (ID # 8408)

February 6, 2025 Quorum Call

February 6, 2025 Quorum Call

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Commissioner W. Kroll will be unable to attend the February 6 meeting. Commission V. Walsh will be attending remotely. All other members will be able to attend in person.

RESULT:	PASSED VOICE VOTE
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3. Informational (ID # 8409)

February 20, 2025 Meeting

February 20, 2025 Meeting

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Due to a scheduling conflict with Staff, the Historical Commission's meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025 will be cancelled.

RESULT:	PASSED VOICE VOTE
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4. Informational (ID # 8407)

Public Speak-Out Session

Public Speak-Out Session

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Stephen Burrell of 48 Clarendon Street informed all of these in attendance of an upcoming writers workshop in Easthampton, MA.

Hong Qian of 77 Maple Street advised that she was in attendance in order to get a better understanding of the Springfield Historical Commission. She was advised that any questions relating to the exterior of the building, contact with Staff should be made.

Commissioner V. Walsh asked if there were any ways to improve the sound - potentially a microphone for the table.

Harry Seymour of 68 Washington Road advised that the sound for the audience was poor at times as well. The Commission and Staff discussed exploring blue tooth speakers, a microphone, switching seating positions at the table, etc.

Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to adjourn the evening's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	PASSED VOICE VOTE
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