



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Minutes ~

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

Andrew Strniste
4137876525

Thursday, February 6, 2025

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on February 6, 2025 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Andrew Strniste	Director of Community Planning	Present	
Vincent Walsh	RAPV Representative	Present	
Alfonso Nardi	Chair	Absent	
Judith Crowell	CPC Representative	Remote	
Walter Kroll		Absent	
Marisa Zorzi		Present	
Vana Nespor		Remote	

II. Minutes Approval

1. Thursday, January 16, 2025

III. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. 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

01/16/25 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 02/06/25

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

J. Agnitti was back before the Commission regarding his application to replace first floor and second floor windows at his property located at 90 Garfield Street. The application was originally heard on Thursday, December 19, 2024 and then continued to January 16, 2025. J. Agnitti then requested a 30-day extension prior to the hearing.

J. Agnitti informed the Commission that he is proposing the same brand of window; however, it would be black in color instead of white, as originally proposed.

Acting Chair V. Walsh confirmed that there were no issues with lights and asked if the windows were one-over-one windows. J. Agnitti responded in the affirmative.

No members of the public provided any public comment.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to accept the application as presented, but with black replacement windows. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. No discussion ensued and the motion was approved unanimously.

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

IV. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 8443)

144 Buckingham Street: Front Door

144 BUCKINGHAM STREET: Replacement of Front Door

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The Petitioner failed to attend the evening's meeting. As a result, the Commission agreed to continue the hearing to the next meeting date - March 6, 2025. Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to continue the hearing to Thursday, March 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Nespor. No discussion ensued and the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [4 TO 0]	Next: 3/6/2025 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Marisa Zorzi	
SECONDER:	Vana Nespor	
AYES:	Vincent Walsh, Judith Crowell, Marisa Zorzi, Vana Nespor	
ABSENT:	Alfonso Nardi, Walter Kroll	

2. Petition (ID # 8444)

14 Fairfield Street: Windows

14 FAIRFIELD STREET: Replacement of Five (5) Windows

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Nathan Andary, the property owner, and his representative Kevin Talbot (from 257 Montgomery Road in Westfield, MA) were before the Commission to present the application, which entailed the replacement of five windows. K. Talbot informed the Commission that the project involved the replacement of five double hung windows with double hung windows.

A discussion ensued about replacing two middle single windows between windows proposed to be replaced that were not in the application. N. Andary informed the Commission that they wished to have the option of having a double hung window.

Acting Chair V. Walsh informed the Petitioner that since those windows were not presented in the application and not warned accordingly, the Commission would be unable to approve the replacement of the two middle single windows. A discussion ensued about replacing the two middle single windows with like windows; Acting Chair V. Walsh advised that if the replacement windows were like for like, then that would qualify as a Certificate of Non-Applicability; the Petitioner would need to consult with Staff to determine if review by the Commission was needed.

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road vocalized his support for the project during public comment.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to accept the application at 14 Fairfield Street to remove and replace five (5) double hung, one over one, flat sill, insert frame windows, that are to have an exterior color of coco bean. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Nespor. No additional discussion ensued and the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Marisa Zorzi
SECONDER:	Vana Nespor
AYES:	Vincent Walsh, Judith Crowell, Marisa Zorzi, Vana Nespor
ABSENT:	Alfonso Nardi, Walter Kroll

3. Petition (ID # 8445)

38 Washington Street: Solar

38 WASHINGTON ROAD: Installation of Solar Powered Panels

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The property owner, Elvis Leiva, was before the Commission to present the proposed project, which involves the installation of solar powered panels on his roof at 38 Washington Street.

Acting Chair V. Walsh reviewed the proposed application, noting that the conduits were to be in the attic and the meters to be installed at the rear of the building. Acting Chair V. Walsh then opined that the project appeared to be minimally visible from the street.

Staff Member Strniste informed the Commission that when he discussed the project with the contractor, he made the recommendations about the conduit and meter, as he believed these attributes were desirable after witnessing the previous solar project at 25 Marengo Park.

Acting Chair V. Walsh reinforced that the project seemed to meet the guidelines.

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road expressed his support for the project and noted that he believes in solar.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to accept the application and install solar powered panels on the south-most facing roof with the conduit running through the attic so that they will not be visible from the streets. The meter and conduit will meet at the back of the house as depicted on the plans. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. Acting Chair V. Walsh informed the Petitioner that should any part of the project change, they will need to come back before the Commission for further approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

4. Petition (ID # 8446)

95 Elliot Street: Porch Post Repair

95 ELLIOT STREET: Porch Post Repair

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The property owner, Kenneth E. Askew was before the Commission to present the proposed project - the repair of an existing front porch post to match the existing posts.

K. Askew informed the Commission that he was proposing to repair and replace a front porch post and provided the Commission an overview of the project using the submitted photographs.

Acting Chair V. Walsh confirmed the post would be exactly duplicated. K. Askew further explained that about three 4ths of the post would be repair and married back together using pins. Acting Chair V. Walsh confirmed that there were no changes in materials.

With no further questions or comments from the Commission or the general public, Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to repair the front porch post to the match the existing posts with paint to match. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Acting Chair V. Walsh informed the Petitioner that should anything change from the original proposal, the Petitioner would need to come back to the Commission for additional review and approval.

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

V. Environmental Reviews

1. Petition (ID # 8447)

32 Hampden Street: Exterior Renovations

32 HAMPDEN STREET: Exterior Renovations

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Shannon Mumblo and Ayanna Crawford were before the Commission on behalf of the Petitioner, Parent Villages, to present the application. The proposed project involves exterior renovations.

S. Mumblo informed the Commission that the Parent Villages, a non-profit, recently purchased the premises and that their organization provides support for families in Springfield. The building is currently in disrepair and that the organization will be looking to repair and repaint the exterior. The goal of the organization is to have the building look and feel the same as it currently does.

Acting Chair V. Walsh confirmed that the Commission was to determine whether there was an adverse impact to the building as a result of the project. Commissioner J. Crowell opined that there was no adverse impact. No public comment was provided.

Commissioner J. Crowell made a motion to find that there was no adverse impact to the building as a result of the proposed work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Nespor. With no additional discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

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

2. Petition (ID # 8448)

1228-1236 Main Street

1228-1236 MAIN STREET: Exterior Renovations

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Acting Chair V. Walsh combined this application with the next application pertaining to 1242 Main Street due to the project being treated all as one since they are neighboring properties.

Tom Collins was before the Commission to discuss the proposed project. T. Collins informed the Commission that he was looking to replace the awnings, lighting and repaint the trim relating to the store fronts on the properties addressed as 1228-1236 Main Street and 1242 Main Street.

With no questions and no public comment, Commissioner J. Crowell made a motion to find that the proposed project, the repainting of store fronts, replacing fabric awnings, and replacing the exterior lighting, does not having an adverse effect on the two properties (1228-1242 Main Street). The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

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

3. Petition (ID # 8449)

1242 Main Street: Exterior Renovations

1242 MAIN STREET: Exterior Renovations

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Acting Chair V. Walsh combined this application with the previous application pertaining to 1228-1236 Main Street due to the project being treated all as one since they are neighboring properties. See that hearing for additional information.

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

VI. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 8450)

Letter of Support: 70 Chestnut Street

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

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Alisa M. Augenstein was before the Commission to present the request for a letter of support relating to 70 Chestnut Street.

A. Augenstein provided the Commission a PowerPoint presentation, providing background of the Stonehaven Hotel going back to the 1920's, and then advised of the proposed renovations. A. Augenstein also provided insight about the existing fallout shelter contained in the building that has items in it since the 1950s.

Staff Member A. Strniste asked A. Augenstein to clarify the reasoning for the request; A. Augenstein responded that the Massachusetts Historical Commission requires a letter of support for their process, and will not review the project without one. A. Augenstein advised that she would be following up for an updated letter of support in the future - when the time comes.

Acting Chair V. Walsh opined that issuing a letter of support is an easy call regarding the proposed renovations.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to issue a Letter of Support for 70 Chestnut Street for the proposed rehabilitation and renovation project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Corwell. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	PASSED VOICE VOTE
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2. Informational (ID # 8451)

Letter of Support: 52 Sumner Avenue

LETTER OF SUPPORT: 52 Sumner Avenue - Stained Glass Window Repairs and Restoration

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The representative was unable to attend the evening's meeting. As a result, the Commission agreed to continue the item to the March 6, 2025 meeting. The motion to continue the meeting to the March 6, 2025 meeting was made by Commissioner M. Zorzi and seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. With no discussion on the motion, it was approved unanimously.

3. Informational (ID # 8452)

Reminder: February 20, 2025 Meeting Cancelled

REMINDER: February 20, 2025 Meeting Cancelled

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Acting Chair V. Walsh reminded the Commission that there would be no meeting on February 20, 2025.

4. Informational (ID # 8453)

Administrative Updates

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a) Draft Springfield Historic Commission Application
- b) Notifications of Letters of Support Issued and Non-Applicability Certificates Issued
- c) Standards Relating to New Construction in a Local Historic District

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Staff Member Strniste provided updates relating to a few matters:

1. The updated Historical Commission application. Staff Member Strniste presented the new application and informed the Commission that his hope is that the new application would help streamline the application process and set expectations amongst the applicants, thus making an easier review process for the Commission.
2. Notifications of Letters of Support Issued and Non-Applicability Certificates Issued. Staff Member Strniste inquired with the Commission if they wanted notifications at each meeting regarding any Letters of Support or Certificates of Non-Applicability that were issued between meetings. The Commission responded in the affirmative.
3. Standards relating to new construction in a Local Historic District. Staff Member Strniste informed the Commission he wanted to get this matter on the Commission's radar since it was a discussion in the topic. Commissioner J. Crowell advised that she proposed discussing this topic in response to the newly passed law about Accessory Dwelling Units. Acting Chair V. Walsh recommended waiting until after the proposed updated Historical Ordinance was presented to the Commission.
4. Eversource Upgrades within the McKnight Local Historic District. Staff Member Strniste advised that Eversource would be making upgrades to electrical meters within the McKnight Local Historic District, which would require the meter being placed on the outside of the building instead of the inside. Eversource was wondering if they would be able to get approval in masse instead of approval for each individual property. Acting Chair V. Walsh advised that he would be open to approving exact guidelines they would have to follow; however he would want to see their plan and discuss the matter further. If the Commission agrees on a set guideline, then Eversource could potentially forgo approvals for each individual address and only get approvals for addresses that they would be unable to satisfy the guidelines. Commissioner M. Zorzi agreed.

5. Informational (ID # 8454)

March 6, 2025 Quorum Call

MARCH 6, 2025 QUORUM CALL

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Commissioner J. Crowell informed the Commission that she will be unavailable for the Thursday, March 6, 2025 meeting. Acting Chair V. Walsh advised that he would be present, but virtually.

6. Informational (ID # 8455)

Public Speak-Out Session

PUBLIC SPEAK-OUT SESSION**COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road advised that the Forest Park Historic Committee had previously discussed Eversource's efforts to install cobra lights, which were argued to be a safety issue. H. Seymour then informed the Commission that they would like to have a voice at the table regarding lighting and hoped to get a letter of support from the Commission regarding the proposed cobra lights. Acting Chair V. Walsh advised that the Law Department would have to provide some guidance regarding the Commission's role. H. Seymour also advised that old light fixtures were being installed elsewhere in the City. The Forest Park Historic Committee is trying to arrange a meeting with Eversource and the Department of Public Works. Acting Chair V. Walsh suggested that someone from the Springfield Historical Commission should attend, assuming it was appropriate to do so. H. Seymour also asked to receive notice for when the Commission begins to discuss the guidelines for new construction in a Local Historic District.

K. Ashew from 95 Elliot Street provided addition comment regarding street lights.

Commissioner V. Nespor informed those in attendance that the there was a community theater event being hosted at 52 Sumner Avenue in mid-February.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Acting Chair V. Walsh and approved unanimously.