



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Agenda ~

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

Andrew Strniste
4137876525

Thursday, May 15, 2025

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on May 15, 2025 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

II. Minutes Approval

1. Thursday, May 01, 2025

III. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8600)

23 Spruceland Avenue (Replace Brick Steps)

23 SPRUCELAND AVENUE: Replace of Existing Brick Steps

HISTORY:

05/01/25 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 05/15/25

Staff informed the Commission that the Petitioner was out of the country and unavailable to attend the evening's meeting, thus requesting a continuance to the next meeting agenda. Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to continue the hearing to May 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Nespor. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Petition (ID # 8603)

N S Bay Street (01085-0033) (Duplex)

NS BAY STREET (01085-033): Construction of a Duplex

HISTORY:

05/01/25 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 05/15/25

Michael Simmonds, owner of the property, was before the Commission to present the application - a proposed duplex at NS Bay Street (Property ID #: 01085-0033).

M. Simmonds informed the Commission that he was modeling his proposal after other duplexes in the area that had been approved - with a greenish siding, black windows, black front doors, white rear doors, and a gutter system that was black.

Chair A. Nardi informed M. Simmonds that the duplexes that were approved had a one door entrance.

A discussion ensued about the features of other duplexes that were approved by the Commission; Commissioner W. Kroll advised that the Commission makes an effort to level set applications since there are landowners who proceed without the proper approvals.

Chair A. Nardi then inquired about the proposed shingles, vinyl siding, railings and floor decking. Commissioner W. Kroll advised that the Commission typically likes to see Douglas Fir tongue and groove as the floor decking. M. Simmonds advised that with the modifications to the porch, he would like to install railings with black metal spindles; Commissioner V. Walsh was opposed to that proposal. Commissioner V. Walsh then opined that the porch should not have a gable, but rather, span the entire front of the house with a one-door entrance, which would connect with the neighbor better. M. Simmonds informed the Commission that he was making an effort to put character into the building, and also advised that the proposed vinyl siding would be woodgrain and match the granite sample submitted. M. Simmonds advised that he did not look into any other types of siding. Should a one-door entrance be required, M. Simmonds informed the Commission that the floor plan would need to be redone due to restraints relating to the current floor plans configuration.

Jennifer Rao from 29 Ingersoll Grove vocalized her opposition to the application, opining that there was nothing historic about the proposal. J. Rao then alleged that the Petitioner was from out-of-state looking to flip a house; that that idea was insulting to those who live in the community trying to fix, restore and maintain their historic building.

Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Street also vocalized his opposition to the proposed project.

Commissioner V. Walsh informed M. Simmonds that the Commission knew that they were making an effort and recommended that the application be continued to allow him to update the proposal. M. Simmonds responded that he was not an out-of-state investor and that he grew up at 12 Florida Street and was from the McKnight neighborhood. He also advised that he cleaned up the property. Commissioner V. Walsh stated that the efforts were appreciated; that the Commission wanted something that was built nice at a reasonable cost.

Commissioner V. Walsh provided an overview of specific items to focus on, specifically the front porch, the front door, corner boards, materials being used, the moldings around the windows, railings being wood with the spindles in the railings.

Chair A. Nardi advised that Staff Member A. Strniste will provide M. Simmonds information about recently approved duplexes.

Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to continue the hearing to the May 15, 2025 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner W. Kroll. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 8645)

3 Clarendon Street (Windows)

3 CLARENDON STREET: Replace Windows

2. Petition (ID # 8644)

34 Mulberry Street (Siding Repairs)

34 MULBERRY STREET: Siding Repairs

3. Petition (ID # 8643)

Standard Guidelines for Those Districts with No Guidelines

STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR THOSE DISTRICTS WITH NO GUIDELINES

V. CPC Historic Home Restoration Grants

1. Petition (ID # 8642)

81 Mulberry Street (Exterior Restoration)

81 MULBERRY STREET: Exterior Restoration

2. Petition (ID # 8641)

258 Sumner Avenue (Exterior Restoration)

258 SUMNER AVENUE: Exterior Restoration

3. Petition (ID # 8640)

102 Magnolia Terrace

102 MAGNOLIA TERRACE: Exterior Restoration

4. Petition (ID # 8639)

41 Churchill Street

41 CHURCHILL STREET: Exterior Restoration

VI. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 8638)

Proposed Birnie-Taylor-Lay Block Historical District Update

PROPOSED BIRNIE-TAYLOR-LAY BLOCK LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT UPDATE

2. Informational (ID # 8637)

Community Preservation Committee Nomination/Appointment

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE NOMINATION/APPOINTMENT

3. Informational (ID # 8636)

Administrative Updates

*ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES***4. Informational (ID # 8635)**

June 5, 2025 Quorum Call

JUNE 5, 2025 QUORUM CALL

5. Informational (ID # 8634)

Public Speak-Out Session

PUBLIC SPEAK-OUT SESSION