



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Agenda ~

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

Andrew Strniste
4137876525

Thursday, August 7, 2025

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on August 7, 2025 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

II. Minutes Approval

1. Thursday, July 17, 2025

III. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8778)

90 Clarendon Street (Fencing)

90 CLARENDON STREET: Fencing

HISTORY:

07/17/25 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 08/07/25

The Petitioner was absent from the evening's hearing. Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to continue the hearing to the August 7, 2025 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Petition (ID # 8779)

102 Thompson Street (Porch Renovations)

102 THOMPSON STREET: Porch Renovations (In regards to Stop Work Order)

HISTORY:

07/17/25 Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE
Next: 08/07/25

Ziyad Jarael was before the Commission to present his application. His translator Khalid al Janabi was in attendance to assist with communication.

The Commission confirmed that the application was in response to an issued Stop Work Order, which Staff Member A. Strniste confirmed. K. al Janabi informed the Commission that Z. Jarael was unaware of the process due to being from a different country, thus not getting a permit prior to starting the project. The porch was in bad shaping, necessitating the deck boards and balusters being replaced.

Commissioner W. Kroll asked about the materials that were used; pressure treated, as identified in the application by Commissioner M. Zorzi.

Commissioner V. Walsh advised that the Commission was not doubting the quality of the work; that the Commission is focused on replicating what is historically appropriate.

Commissioners V. Walsh and W. Kroll confirmed that the decking was assembled tightly, rather than with gaps between the boards themselves. Staff Member A. Strniste confirmed that the wooden shakes on the second floor porch were not replaced; the Petitioner responded that the shakes had been painted.

When asked about the balusters, the Petitioner confirmed that they were made of wood as well.

Commissioner V. Walsh informed the Petitioner that had the current work be presented to the Commission, the work would have never been approved; the work was done well, but not in the right manner. Commissioner W. Kroll reaffirmed Commissioner V. Walsh's assertion and added that the handrails should have been a black pipe rail, the spindles circular, and that handrails curved. Commissioner W. Kroll added that the decking is going in the right direction, perpendicular to the building, and would have been tongue and grove; that the existing decking would not be seen as much had the original railing been in place.

Commissioner V. Walsh opined that replicating the previously existing railing would not be too expensive to make and that it could be done. Discussion ensued about the height of the railing and the installation of a black pipe rail to help meet code. Commissioner V. Walsh opined that he was okay with the installed decking, and that if any materials still existed, the materials could be reused.

Commissioner W. Kroll recommended continuing the hearing to the August 7, 2025 meeting to allow the Petitioner to research the ability to recreate the previous handrail.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to continue the hearing to the Commissioner's August 7, 2025 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Walsh. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Public Hearings (New)

1. Petition (ID # 8834)

113-115 Mill Street (Windows)

113-115 MILL STREET: Replace Windows

2. Petition (ID # 8835)

115 Garfield Street (Windows)

115 GARFIELD STREET: Replace Multiple Windows

3. Petition (ID # 8836)

123 Bay Street (Windows & Doors)

123 BAY STREET: Replace Windows and Doors

4. Petition (ID # 8837)

205 Saint James Avenue (Windows)

205 SAINT JAMES AVENUE: Replace Windows

5. Petition (ID # 8838)

WS Pine Street (09715-0062) (Duplex)

WS PINE STREET (09715-0062): Construction of a Duplex

6. Petition (ID # 8839)

95 Sumner Avenue

95 SUMNER AVENUE: Construction of a Shed

7. Petition (ID # 8840)

29 George Street (Doors & Porch Post)

29 GEORGE STREET: First Floor & Second Floor Front Doors and Front Porch Post (In Response to Stop Work Order and Notice of Violations)

V. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8643)

Standard Guidelines for Those Districts with No Guidelines

STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR THOSE DISTRICTS WITH NO GUIDELINES

HISTORY:

05/15/25 **Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 07/17/25

Staff Member A. Strniste informed the Commission that at their last meeting, they had voted to move forward with a public hearing on the proposed Standard Guidelines for those Districts with No Guidelines. He provided an overview advising that these guidelines would apply to those Local Historic Districts that did not have guidelines.

Commissioner V. Walsh inquired about the process and whether the City Council had to approve of the guidelines.

The Commission answered questions from the public.

One member of the public specifically inquired about new construction; Commissioner V. Walsh advised that the Commission is in the process of drafting guidelines for new construction.

Harry Seymour, from 68 Washington Road, opined that more public exposure of the guidelines was necessary and recommended that an overview of the proposal be drafted and submitted.

Acting Chair W. Kroll agreed that more time was needed.

Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to continue the hearing to July 17, 2025.

Commissioner V. Walsh seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

07/17/25

Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 08/07/25

Commissioner V. Walsh vocalized his discontent with the proposed draft Historical Ordinance rewrite, specifically asking why the draft prepared by the consultant was not given to the Historical Commission prior to Staff making amendments. Staff Member A. Strniste responded that he was mistaken as to what the expectations of the Commission were regarding the product produced by the consultant. Staff Member A. Strniste noted that the evening's hearing was in regards to the proposed Standard Guidelines for those Historic District with No Guidelines and not the proposed Historical Ordinance rewrite.

Commissioner V. Walsh advised that he wanted the rationale behind the changes made to the draft produced by the consultant, noting that the two notable changes he took issue with were the single-building local historic districts and the implementation of fees.

Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to continue the hearing relating to the guidelines to the August 7, 2025 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi and approved unanimously after no additional discussion.

VI. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 8841)

Administrative Updates

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

2. Informational (ID # 8842)

August 7, 2025 Quorum Call

AUGUST 7, 2025 QUORUM CALL

3. Informational (ID # 8843)

Public Speak-Out Session

PUBLIC SPEAK-OUT SESSION