



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Agenda ~

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

Andrew Strniste
4137876525

Thursday, August 21, 2025

5:30 PM

Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on August 21, 2025 at Richard Neal Municipal Operations Center, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

III. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8704)

WS Buckingham Street (02042-0039) (Single-Family Dwelling)

WS BUCKINGHAM STREET (02042-0039): Construction of a Single-Family Dwelling

HISTORY:

06/05/25

Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**

Next: 06/26/25

Joseph Ruggeri was before the Commission to present the proposed project at WS Buckingham Street relating to a single-family dwelling.

J. Ruggeri advised the proposed single-family will have Hardie Board siding and follow the design of the McKnight neighborhood. Commissioner V. Walsh confirmed that the previous building was a single-family dwelling. A brief discussion regarding an existing tree on the property ensued.

A separate discussion ensued about the orientation of the building and which direction was the front. Chair A. Nardi requested a site plan and observed that the proposed site location, as presented, set behind the front building line of the adjacent properties.

Commissioner V. Walsh advised that shakes on the garage portion of the building was uncommon, that he had concerns about the corner boards, advised that the applicant should ensure that the front porch is functional, that the front porch itself of a historic building does not typically sit that close to the ground, that the front porch would typically have a railing, the front door was not historically appropriate, the faux stone was not really historic, and that the garage being in front is not normally present (though understood why the garage was situated there).

Commissioner J. Crowell opined that the building should look like those in the neighborhood and also be consistent with the neighborhood.

Chair A. Nardi informed the representative that the elevation of the back entry door and front entry door did not align when looking the elevations of the porches and number of steps. Commissioner V. Walsh advised that typically the foundation of a historic building sits higher.

During public comment, Jim Boone from 97 Florida Street advised that the McKnight brothers had deliberately anticipated setbacks when designing the area in the 1870s and 1880s and finds that the garage in the front of the building to be inappropriate. Commissioner V. Walsh then read J. Boone's and Jennifer Rao's written public comment into the record. Kevin Hadley from 190 Buckingham Street, opined that the project was not close to what was there previously and that a more thorough design would be appropriated. Harry Seymour from 68 Washington Road expressed his disapproval for the proposal and reinforced his position for new construction guidelines.

Commissioner V. Walsh opined that he could not vote in favor of the submitted proposal and suggested that the hearing be continued. Chair A. Nardi advised that the applicant should come back with updated plans.

Commissioner V. Nespor made a motion to continue the hearing to the next available meeting date - June 26, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell, and with no other discussion, approved unanimously.

06/26/25 **Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 07/17/25

Staff Member A. Strniste informed the Commission that the Applicant had requested a 45-day extension and to continue the hearing to the July 17, 2025 meeting agenda. Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to grant the 45-day extension and continue the hearing to the July 17, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner M. Zorzi. With no additional comments, the motion was approved unanimously.

07/17/25 **Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 08/21/25

Staff Member A. Strniste informed the Commission that he was expecting the Petitioner to submit updated plans in the coming week or so. The Petitioner or a representative was unable to attend the next meeting - August 7, 2025 - and was therefore looking to have the hearing continued to the August 21, 2025 meeting. Commissioner M. Zorzi made a motion to continue the hearing the hearing to the Commission's August 21, 2025 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner V. Walsh. With no additional discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

2. 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.

08/07/25 **Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 08/21/25

Staff Member A. Strniste informed the Commission that the Petitioner has conflicts on Thursday's making attendance difficult. For this meeting, he was recommending continuing the application to the next meeting date and he would reach out to the application to get clarification about attendance. Commissioner V. Walsh made a motion to continue the evening's hearing to the next available meeting date - August 21, 2025. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner J. Crowell. With no discussion on the motion, it was approved unanimously.

3. 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 groove; 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.

08/07/25 Historical Commission **CONTINUE VOTE**
Next: 08/21/25

4. Petition (ID # 8838)

WS Pine Street (09715-0062) (Duplex)

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

HISTORY:

08/07/25

Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 08/21/25

IV. Public Hearings (New)**1. Petition (ID # 8844)**

72 Garfield Street (Windows)

72 GARFIELD STREET: Replace Windows

2. Petition (ID # 8854)

36 Bellevue Avenue (Window)

36 BELLEVUE AVENUE: Replace Windows

3. Petition (ID # 8845)

152 Sumner Avenue (Solar)

152 SUMNER AVENUE: Installation of Solar Panels

4. Petition (ID # 8855)

94 Thompson Street (Solar)

94 THOMPSON STREET: Installation of Solar Panels

5. Petition (ID # 8856)

189 Bay Street (Aka 124 Buckingham Street) (Solar)

189 BAY STREET (A.K.A. 124 BUCKINGHAM STREET): Installation of Solar Panels

6. Petition (ID # 8846)

187 Westminster Street (Doors)

187 WESTMINSTER STREET: Installation of New Doors

7. Petition (ID # 8857)

123 Bay Street (Porch & Railing)

123 BAY STREET: Porch & Railing Renovations

V. Public Hearings (Continued)

1. Petition (ID # 8836)

123 Bay Street (Windows & Doors)

123 BAY STREET: Replace Windows and Doors

HISTORY:

08/07/25

Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

Next: 08/21/25

VI. Environmental Review

1. Petition (ID # 8858)

1155 Main Street (Exterior Renovations)

1155 MAIN STREET: Exterior Renovations

VII. Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings

1. Petition (ID # 8847)

459 Dwight Street (Demolition)

459 DWIGHT STREET: Demolition of Commercial Building

VIII. Other Matters Properly Before the Commission

1. Informational (ID # 8848)

Indian Orchard Fire Station Project Updates

INDIAN ORCHARD FIRES STATION PROJECT UPDATES

2. Informational (ID # 8860)

Forest Park Heights Letter of Support Relating to Street Lighting

FOREST PARK HEIGHTS LETTER OF SUPPORT RELATING TO STREET LIGHTING

3. Informational (ID # 8849)

Administrative Updates

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

4. Informational (ID # 8850)

September 4, 2025 Quorum Call

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 QUORUM CALL

5. Informational (ID # 8851)

Public Speak-Out Session

PUBLIC SPEAK-OUT SESSION