



Historical Commission

Regular

~ Agenda ~

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

Alvin Allen
(413) 787-6020

Thursday, February 16, 2023

5:30 PM

City Hall -- Room 205

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on February 16, 2023 at City Hall -- Room 205, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

1. Informational (ID # 7194)

Acceptance of Minutes

Acceptance of Minutes - SHC meeting held on January 5, 2023

HISTORY:

01/19/23

Historical Commission PASSED VOICE VOTE

2. Informational (ID # 7244)

Acceptance of Minutes

Acceptance of Minutes for the February 13, 2023 Subcommittee meeting on New Construction Application & Application Process

III. New Public Hearings

1. Petition (ID # 7195)

113 Harvard Street

113 Harvard Street: Installation of solar panels

HISTORY:

01/19/23

Historical Commission CONTINUE VOTE

2. Petition (ID # 7206)

375 Union Street

375 Union Street: Installation of (2) replacement windows

3. Petition (ID # 7238)

95 Dartmouth Street

95 Dartmouth Street: replacement of (15) windows

4. Petition (ID # 7239)

443 State Street

443 State Street: Demolition of two rear buildings

5. Petition (ID # 7240)

28 Clarendon Street

28 Clarendon Street: Alternation of front porch railing height (In response to Stop Work Order)

IV. Preservation Restrictions**1. Informational (ID # 7176)**

15 Ripley Place

15 Ripley Place: Installation of (21) replacement windows, repair front door, replace front storm door, replace roof and rebuild front porch

HISTORY:

01/05/23

Historical Commission

Request from petitioner/designee to continue application to the 1/19 SHC meeting.

01/19/23

Historical Commission

Petitioner has requested application be continued to the February 2, 2023 SHC meeting.

V. Environmental Review**VI. Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings****VII. Review of Municipally Owned or Funded Projects****1. Informational (ID # 7241)**

Thomas M Balliet Elementary

Thomas M Balliet Elementary, 52 Rosewell Street: Replacement of all exterior doors & frames & all windows

VIII. Other Matters Properly before the Commission**1. Informational (ID # 7243)**

Brookings School, 367 Hancock Street

Brookings School, 367 Hancock Street NR Nomination: Request for letter of support

2. Informational (ID # 7208)

68-70, 76 & 84-88 Byers Street

68-70, 76 & 84-88 Byers Street: Creation of multi-building local historic district (Birnie-Taylor-Lay Block LHD)

3. Informational (ID # 7207)

Discussion: New District Guidelines: Apremont Triangle & Federal Square-Upper State Street LHDs

4. Informational (ID # 7242)

Discussion: the Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors

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5. Informational (ID # 7245)

351 Bridge Street: Section 106 Review(Antennas & Related Appurtenances

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6. Informational (ID # 7200)

Public Speak-Out Session

Public Speak-Out Session

HISTORY:

01/26/23

Historical Commission RECEIVED THE REPORT-PASSED

Public Comment:

Jim Boone of 97 Florida Street commended the Commission for dealing with the new construction guidelines as current guidelines do not include new construction guidance. He recommended the "Springfield Design guidelines for the Residential Architecture of Springfield" prepared by Dietz as a helpful resource.

Deborah Shea of 342 Forest Park Avenue spoke in favor of the Dietz document, but voiced concern regarding the recommended list of plantings included as she finds several suggested plantings to be invasive and perhaps there are native plantings that perhaps are more appropriate for the neighborhood.

Harry Seymour of 68 Washington Road spoke on behalf of the Forest Park Civic Association stating they stand firmly behind the Commission's efforts to create the new construction guidelines and offered help if needed.

Jennifer Rao of 29 Ingersoll Grove spoke as both a homeowner and a board member to the Springfield Preservation Trust. She spoke in support of creating new construction guidelines, because it protects the historic districts. She voice concern over the disparate impact on those who have existing properties and are subject to a set of guidelines and those constructing new residences, where there are no current guidelines in place. The guidelines will help to maintain the same level of protection that other jurisdictions have.

David Gaby of 1105 Worthington Street spoke as a resident of McKnight and a member of the McKnight District Improvement Association. Feels the Commission is on a noble mission to provide a guide for developers and a protection for homeowners. He voiced concerns about the lack of direction some developers are coming in with and experience in more modern suburban developments. He wants to ensure that it is being conveyed to developers what design conventions, architectural vocabulary we want them to use. He also voiced concerns about architectural details being used across the board throughout all historic districts. Each one of the historic districts has its own traditions and vocabulary. He does not want a prototypical guide.

Carl Moccia of 14 Cherryvale Avenue inquired about abutter notifications for new construction work.

Public Comment Reopened:

Jim Boone of 97 Florida Street discussed some concerns. In the current guidelines for historic districts there are some things that are not controlled. Commissioner Walsh indicated the guidelines will differentiate what is required from what is recommended or suggested.

Harry Seymour of 68 Washington Road wanted to discuss the low turnout at the meeting as a result of a major speak-out via zoom on litter tonight.

Jennifer Rao of 29 Ingersoll Grove provided some clarity on her submission on behalf of the Springfield Preservation Trust. She also had concerns regarding variances being sought for confirming historic standards being burdensome. She also inquired about whether the abutter notices could be expanded. She also asked to have the Springfield Design guidelines for the Residential Architecture of Springfield to be available on the web page.

David Gaby of 1105 Worthington Street spoke in favor of Commissioner Nardi's thoughts about standards for submissions. He thinks there should be alternatives to utilizing a licensed architect as he does not hold a license, but has designed property. He also voiced objection to referring to zoning. He suggested a possible overlay district. He wants to ensure the historic heritage is preserved.

Carl Moccia of 14 Cherryvale Avenue is concerned about properties being built surrounding 200 year old properties and suggesting they be held to the same guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Public Comment - New Construction Guidelines (PDF)