

**Northampton Historical Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, January 29, 2018  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Hearing Room, City Hall Second Floor, 210 Main Street

Member	Present
David Drake - Chair	
Martha Lyon - Vice Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal	X
Pauline Fogel	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Bruce Kriviskey	X
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Vice Chair Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:30 PM

**Public Comment**

Janet Gross thanked the Commission for taking action regarding the concrete wall constructed at Round Hill as part of Clarke School redevelopment. Ms. LaValley noted that if a sign were to be proposed on the wall, approval of both the Historical Commission and Planning Board would be required.

**Review of Proposed First Churches Plaque**

Ms. Lyon read the proposed text of a sign to be installed at First Churches to provide information about the restored windows. The Commission suggested minor edits, which Ms. LaValley will pass along to the Church.

**Request for Support/Determinations of Significance for CPA Projects**

Ms. LaValley provided an overview of a proposed CPA small grant project proposed by the Office of Planning and Sustainability to create signage at conservation areas that will highlight points of interest as well as history, such as Burt's peat bog, and lead mines on Westhampton Road. Mr. Kriviskey moved to find these areas important to Northampton's history and support the application. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

**Update on Historical Commission CPA applications**

Ms. LaValley stated that the Commission will be requesting \$100,000 for cemetery stone conservation, and \$30,000 for a historic preservation plan. Ms. Lyon stated that the Mayor is supportive of the Historical Commission taking a more active role in historic aspects of the City's cemeteries, and that it is important for the Commission to be more involved in stewardship of these assets. The Commission suggested that links to the cemetery studies

should be added to the Historical Commission website. Ms. Blumenthal volunteered to present the cemetery project to the Community Preservation Committee on March 7.

### **Request for Support of Architectural Access Board Variance – St. John’s Episcopal Church**

Ms. LaValley stated that work at St. John’s triggers the need to meet all accessibility codes, and the project architect is requesting a variance from the state to be able to leave the historic front entrance with its existing stairs as-is, and provide a ramp elsewhere. The Commission agreed that additional information is necessary to be able to review the accessibility of the overall project, but that leaving the Elm-street facing door without a ramp makes sense, if a ramp is provided elsewhere.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to provide a support letter to the Architectural Access Board, and request the architect to attend a future Historical Commission meeting to discuss the project. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

### **State Hospital Project Updates**

Ms. Lyon stated that the fountain is now complete and is in storage. The Memorial Committee and staff are now working to investigate the condition of the base and determine what is needed for electrical and plumbing with a preservation architect and ME contractor.

### **Preservation Awards – 2017/2018**

The Commission agreed that the awards should be held in May during Preservation Month, and should be held at Historic Northampton if possible.

### **Staff / Subcommittee issued permits**

Ms. LaValley stated that the demolition review subcommittee did not find a building at 30 Lyman Road, part of the Smith College Lyman Estate, to be significant. Mr. Kriviskey stated that the building is board and batten, has had many renovations over the years and is not visible from the Street. Ms. Lyon noted that the building may have been Leonard Baskin’s studio.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM