

**Northampton Historical Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, March 26 2018  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM  
**PLACE:** City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

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

Chairman Drake called the meeting to Order, 5:30 PM

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Blumenthal moved to approve the minutes of September 25 and October 30, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Lyon, the motion carried unanimously.

**5:30 PM – Continuation: Public Hearing to determine whether 236 South Street, Map ID 38B-245 should be considered ‘Preferably Preserved’ pursuant to Chapter 161 of the City Code, and whether a demolition delay period should be imposed.**

Ben Lewis discussed the proposed design, and stated that he used the Elm Street guidance and other houses in the neighborhood for ideas.

Chairman Drake summarized the Commission’s permitting role, noting that while not within a local historic district, if the building is considered Preferably Preserved, an alternate plan allowing demolition before one year could include construction of a new structure that is compatible with the streetscape.

Mr. Kriviskey suggested that individual entryways as proposed lack character, and could be made more welcoming with front porches.

Ms. Lyon stated that she appreciates the design effort, and suggested that the gable proportions be reconsidered; noting that the windows in the existing structure are elongated Italianate. Legacy of the existing building could be incorporated through an interpretive panel.

Chairman Drake noted that the building is oriented around the rear courtyard, which will limit interaction with South Street.

The project architect stated that the roof orientation is limited so that solar can be accommodated. Porches facing the street seem often not used in the area, and while stoops are not raised to provide accessibility, columns could be added for definition.

Ms. Lyon stated that contemporary architecture in an historic setting can enhance character. The appearance of separate units would be welcoming, with whatever design elements selected to achieve that look.

Ms. Blumenthal moved to continue the hearing until April 30 at 5:30. Seconded by Ms. Lyon, the motion carried unanimously.

### **State Hospital Project Updates**

Ms. LaValley stated that the CPC recommended approval of the State Hospital signage project.

### **Preservation Awards 2018**

The Commission finalized awardees for the preservation awards:

Florence Pie Bar

Smith College Crewhouse

15 Swan Street

302 Elm

333 Elm

Iconica Social Club

Leeds Interpretive Signage

Seth Thomas Clock

Historic Northampton

First Churches Windows

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM