

**Northampton Historical Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, April 30 2018  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM  
**PLACE:** City Hall Hearing Room, 210 Main Street

Member	Present
David Drake - Chair	X
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

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.**

Mr. Della Penna recused himself from discussion of this item.

Ben Lewis provided a revised design pursuant to comments made by the Commission during the review process. The revisions are intended to make the new structure be more congruous with the surrounding neighborhood. Chairman Drake provided historical information on the building proposed to be demolished; it was the original Lathrop home and one of the first for women without means.

Ms. Fogel noted that the revisions improve the streetscape views of the new development. Mr. Kriviskey noted that the history in this case is invisible. The changes break up the façade and reflect some of the neighborhood character.

Ms. Lyon noted that the proposed structure is very large, but that she appreciates altered roof lines and columns. A commemorative history sign of the original building should be required. Mr. Gaffney added that the South Street neighborhood is variegated with lot of different styles.

Chairman Drake moved to find the building preferably preserved and issue a one year demolition delay. An alternate plan to include:

- 1) Photo documentation of the existing building to be completed and provided to Forbes Library.
- 2) A commemorative plaque or historical panel containing information about the Lathrop home to be installed on the site
- 3) The new structure shall conform to the rendering dated April 30 2018.

Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried 5-0.

**6:00 PM, Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for building renovation. Work to include roof replacement and shutter removal. Trustees of Smith College, 109 Elm Street, Parcel 31B-198.**

Laura Fitch, Krauss-Fitch Architects, and Alison Avalon Duke, Smith College, provided an overview of the request to remove shutters and replace the existing roof. Other work is replacement in-kind or not visible. Ms. Fitch stated that the building was originally a tavern, and evidence indicates that the original building would not have had shutters. The roof will be an in-kind replacement, with wooden shutters facing Elm Street and asphalt in the rear. Mr. Kriviskey suggested that some of the shutter hardware be retained offsite due its age.

Ms. Lyon moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for the work as proposed, Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously.

**6:15 PM, Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code. Work to include replacement of 21 windows. Karl Knapp, 219 Elm Street, Parcel 31A-036.**

Karl Knapp provided an overview of the proposed replacement with Marvin Integrity windows. These are proposed to be wood on the exterior with a fiberglass component outside and will match the historical rail measurements. Chairman Drake asked if the grills are removable. Mr. Knapp replied that they are not, and will be designed to create a shadowline. The existing storm windows will also be removed. Ms. Blumenthal asked if restoration of the existing windows was considered. Mr. Knapp replied that the current windows do not have weights and are difficult to operate.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for the work as proposed. Seconded by Ms. Blumenthal, the motion carried unanimously.

**Endorsement of Open Space Recreation and Multi-Use Trail Plan**

Ms. LaValley provided an overview of historic-related recommendations from the Open Space Plan, including respecting historic names and increasing awareness of historic landscapes. Ms. Lyon moved to endorse the plan. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

**State Hospital Project Updates**

Ms. Lyon stated that the Committee met with the fountain team, including a preservation architect, structural engineer and mechanical engineer. The bottom of the basin has been located and is made of concrete slurry. The team will visit the restored components to gain understanding of how it was put together and powered, and a subsequent Community Preservation application may follow.

### **CPA Application Updates, Next Steps**

Ms. LaValley stated that \$100,000 was awarded for the cemetery stone restoration project for the West Farms, Park Street and Bridge Street cemeteries. Ms. Lyon stated that the Historic Preservation Plan was not funded at this time; the Community Preservation Committee had some questions about the plan and the Historical Commission's role. They proposed that the Commission reach out to some stakeholders and organizations to discuss resources and goals.

Mr. Kriviskey moved to pursue this idea and stated that he would be happy to participate. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Section 106 Review, Mount Tom Road improvements**

Ms. LaValley read the project synopsis, to include widening of Route 5 and pedestrian improvements. The Commission was not aware of any historical resources that would be impacted and agreed that no comment was necessary.

### **Designate Community Preservation Committee Representative**

The Commission unanimously agreed that Ms. Lyon should continue to serve as the Commission's representative.

### **Brief Update, Upper Roberts Meadow Dam Removal**

Ms. LaValley stated that a contract was awarded, and demolition work will be starting in May. DPW plans to incorporate blocks from the dam into historic areas of the site, and will retain others for other uses as appropriate.

### **Other business not foreseen when agenda was prepared**

Ms. Fogel stated that Doug Harris will be at Forbes Library on May 2 to discuss Native American stone sites.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM