

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, January 3, 2022
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

Member	Present
Martha Lyon, Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal, Vice-Chair	X
Jonathan Daube	X
Steven Moga	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Harvey Hill	X
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Martha Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:31 PM

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Jonathan moved to approve the July 26 2021 minutes. Seconded by Barbara, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote, with one abstention.

5:30 PM: Public Hearing - Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed replacement of 30 windows. Perry Cohen/Pella Products, 330 Elm Street, Map ID 31A-002.

Martha provided an overview of a previous permit denial; a new application now proposes fewer replacements and a different design.

Dan Wells, Pella Widows, stated that the previous application proposed removable grilles that were not historically appropriate. The new application proposes permanently affixed grilles. Non-original windows are the focus of the application, to increase energy efficiency. Martha read from the design standards, noting that the front original windows are not currently proposed for replacement. Perry Cohen stated that the work will upgrade the appearance of the building, since it will mostly replace non-original windows, and increase energy efficiency. Dan provided information on condition of the windows to be replaced, some have rot and were installed poorly, many have detached grilles. New windows are proposed to have white powdercoat and a wooden interior. Glass will be clear; the tinting if the prior widows is due to failure. A 5/8" grille width is proposed, to match the existing windows. All storms will be removed and the grille profile restored. Repair of the Elm Street façade windows to meet the local historic district guidelines is being investigated. Craig moved to issue a certificate of appropriateness for the work. Seconded by Jonathan, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Proposed Womens Suffrage Sign at Sojourner Truth Memorial

Carol Rinehart, Sojourner Truth Memorial Committee provided a history of the park and statue. Wendy Sinton stated that the group filed an application with the Pomeroy Foundation for a sign to provide information about suffrage. Freddie Kay, Suffrage MA, stated that the Foundation is providing up to five signs per state; with a QR code on the back with more information. Grantees are responsible for installation and maintenance. Sarah stated that the park is located within the roadway right of way, and the Department of Public Works requested the Historical Commission's approval of the gift acceptance. The Commission agreed to co-sponsor the Council Order for acceptance of the sign.

Update on Abolition National Register District Project

Steve Strimer provided background on the project, which is now proceeding using CPA funds. Neil Larson, consultant, stated that he is working with MassHistoric to finalize the boundaries and nomination. Kathryn Grover added that it is very unique to have an area the size of Florence with a focus on equality. Barbara asked about plans to make the information widely available. Steve will work on this when the work is complete. Dylan suggested that Forbes would be a resource when work is complete.

Section 106 Review, Mount Tom Road (Rt 5) Shared Use Path

The Commission agreed that additional information is needed, including possible analysis of effect beyond the provided project statement.

Discuss Local Historic District Design Guidelines Updates

The Committee agreed that roof slope guidelines for solar should be updated. The section on demolition or removal could be expanded. This could potentially be discussed during the preservation plan update.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM