

**Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2021
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Online Meeting

Member	Present
Vacancy	
Martha Lyon – Acting Chair	X
Barbara Blumenthal	X
Pauline Fogel	X
Dylan Gaffney	X
Vacancy	
Craig Della Penna	X
Sarah LaValley - staff	X

Ms. Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:32 PM

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaffney moved to approve the February 3 2021 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Blumenthal, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Comment

None

5:30 PM: Continuation. Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code for proposed window replacement. Dallas Ducar and Perry Cohen/Pella Windows, 330 Elm Street, Map ID 31A-002.

Ms. Lyon recapped that the Commission’s options pursuant to the Ordinance are to approve or deny a certificate of appropriateness, or grant a certificate of hardship, and read the window section from the design guidelines.

Jonathan Schulz stated that many windows are in poor condition; all are drafty. Perry Cohen stated that upgrades have been done to the house following purchase; solar was not a good option due to the slate roof, and upgrading windows seemed like a good way to increase efficiency and eliminate lead concerns. Divided light windows would be twice the cost of removable grilles. Interior storm windows would be a similar cost to full replacement. Ms. Blumenthal noted that rear facing windows would be subject to the ordinance if blocked from street view by a wall or vegetation. Mr. Cohen stated that some rear windows are not proposed for replacement, others have already been replaced by prior owners and have removable grilles.

Ms. Fogel suggested that window concerns could be addressed through repair. Mr. Gaffney noted that the guidelines are clear. Mr. Schulz suggested permanent muntins as a compromise. Mr. Della Penna suggested appropriate windows for the main façade. Ms. Lyon asked about wood decay. Mr. Schulz replied this is not major, but the glazing is deteriorating. Ms. Lyon suggested that an assessment from a repair specialist would be

helpful; the windows are over 100 years old and it would be difficult to see them go. Mr. Gaffney provided Forbes Library's recent window restoration as an example. Ms. Fogel moved to request a window restoration estimate and evaluation, and continue the hearing to March 29 at 5:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna. With the applicant's consent, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Review Porch Replacement Pursuant to Historic Preservation Restriction – 52 Hatfield Street

The Commission considered a photograph of the school from the 1940s. Paul McCutcheon, McCutcheon Construction, stated that his goal is to make the porch as maintenance free as possible. Some materials will be modern, but the appearance will be duplicated. The Commission agreed that the work as proposed, which will incorporate some newer materials, is appropriate under the terms of the preservation restriction. The railing is specifically called out in the deed. Mr. McCutcheon will consider a proposal for the railing that the Commission can review at a later time. Ms. Fogel moved to determine the porch work appropriate and communicate that to the building department. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Welcome New Members

The Commission welcomed new members Harvey Hill and Jonathan Daube who will be sworn in soon, and members introduced themselves.

Other Business

Ms. Fogel provided a summary of the February Central Business Architecture Committee meeting, at which the demolition of St. John Cantius was discussed.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM