Northampton Historical Commission
Minutes

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2019
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: City Hall Hearing Room, 210 Main Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Drake – Chair</td>
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<td>Martha Lyon – Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Barbara Blumenthal</td>
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<td>Pauline Fogel</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Dylan Gaffney</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Emily Estes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Craig Della Penna</td>
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<td>Sarah LaValley - staff</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
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Chairman Drake called the meeting to Order, 5:32 PM

Public Comment
None

Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2018
Ms. Fogel moved to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried unanimously.

Emily Estes, new AIA nominee to the Historical Commission introduced herself.

5:30 PM – Public Hearing: To determine whether the building at 47 Chapel Street, map ID 38A-029 should be determined "Preferably Preserved" pursuant to the Northampton Demolition Review Ordinance, Chapter 161 of the General Code.

John Handzel, building owner, provided photos of the condition of the property. It was declared unsafe for human occupancy by the Building Commissioner, and both the interior and exterior are in poor condition.
Mr. Gaffney noted that the building first appeared in 1870’s City maps. Later owners worked at the state hospital. Historic photos are not available, but the original footprint of the house has been expanded into the current structure.
Chairman Drake noted that the role of the Commission extends to all types of buildings, including vernacular structures, which are sometimes overlooked because they are not as spectacular as other structures but are historically important.
Ms. Fogel noted that the structure is in very poor condition.
Ms. Lyon stated that the house fits into the streetscape due to its size, but does not meet other Preferably Preserved criteria.
Ms. Estes noted that the house is undersized by modern standards and would be very expensive to rehabilitate.
Mr. Gaffney moved to find that the house does not meet the Preferably Preserved criteria. Seconded by Ms. Lyon, the motion carried unanimously.
Chairman Drake suggested that other houses in the area could be used for design ideas.

5:50 PM – Public Hearing: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code. Proposed work to include exterior lighting. 1924LLC, 49 Round Hill Road, Map ID 31B-004.
Ms. Estes recused herself from discussion.
Tom Douglas, architect, provided an overview of Round Hill projects. Lighting was not included on site plans approved by the Planning Board and Historical Commission. Driveway access lights are required by the Planning Board to be turned off, and lights at entrances had all been illuminated. Proposed exterior lights will be on motion sensors as required by the Planning Board.
Chairman Drake asked about site layout and lighting requirements, noting that the building now has some neighboring residential uses. Mr. Douglas replied that it is a different era and use than the Clarke School. Motion sensors are proposed for the corners of buildings on small electrical boxes, the other option was to pole-mount. The decorative brickwork is not being altered and can easily be patched.
Mr. Douglas noted that lighting is listed as an exemption under the Ordinance, and provided information regarding compliance with design standards.
Ms. LaValley noted that the Commission has been consistent in applying the Ordinance and design standards to all aspects of an overall project for which a Certificate of Appropriateness is required.
Ms. Lyon agreed that efforts have been made to rehabilitate the building appropriately, and buildings do not have to remain static. The proposed lights are not the ‘whitewashing’ mentioned in the design guidelines.
Public Comment:
Janet Gross asked about holes being made in the building’s façade and a pole light near the front of the building. Jim Hebert replied that this was a previously existing pole and is not new.
Ms. Lyon moved to continue the hearing to a time within 30 days to allow absent members to participate after reviewing the video of the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney, the motion carried 4-0. The hearing will be readvertised when a date is set.

Review Proposed Plans for 43 Finn Street
Jay Heilman, contractor, presented sketch plans for the new home that are proposed to include design elements from the neighborhood, including stick frame decorative detail, incorporation of the gable detail into the porch, and shifting the side elevation to include additional detail.
Chairman Drake expressed concern about massing of the house. Ms. Lyon noted that the existing house has a fractured roofline. The Commission discussed porches with the applicant, and agreed that having a porch with a different architectural style would be acceptable since this was common in houses of that era.
Mr. Gaffney moved to find that the intent if the Demolition Ordinance is met through the plans for a replacement structure provided, and to approve an alternate plan including the elements discussed. Seconded by Ms. Lyon, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM