Ms. Lyon called the meeting to Order, 5:30 PM

Public Comment
None

Approval of Minutes – October 29, 2018
Ms. Blumenthal moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Della Penna, the motion carried unanimously.

5:30 PM: Request for a Local Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness pursuant to Section 195 of the Northampton Code. Proposed work to include chimney reconstruction. Beatrice and Daniel O’Shea, 333 Elm Street, Map ID 24C-044.

Daniel O’Shea stated that the chimneys are in poor condition and are in danger of falling over.
Ms. Lyon noted that standards require that chimneys be rebuilt using existing materials where possible. Ms. Fogel asked about white chimneys signifying Underground Railroad homes. Steve Strimer replied that there is no historic evidence to support that theory. Ms. Fogel noted that the mortar has been painted white along with the rest of the chimney, and asked what color it will be when complete. Bea O’Shea replied that the contractor will inspect the mortar for color during work and will use that to determine what to match. Ms. Blumenthal asked about flues being noted in the application as not being visible. Mr. O’Shea replied that this will be a flat piece of metal that can pivot, and will be clocked from street view by the roofline.
Mr. Della Penna asked about the interior. Mr. O’Shea replied that this will be a decorative fireplace, with an alternate heat source installed. He added that the chimney may be repointed if possible, but may be too deteriorated.
Mr. Della Penna moved to issue a certificate as appropriateness as presented in the application, with an option to repoint. Seconded by Ms. Fogel, the motion carried unanimously, with an abstention by Ms. Lyon as an abutter.
**Abolition Reform District Update**
Steve Strimer provided an update on the National Register nomination project, which was awarded CPA funds. The consultant included meetings with the Historical Commission in their proposal, so the Commission will be involved as work moves forward. CPA funding for historic markers may be sought in the future when the nomination is complete. Mr. Strimer noted that there are already two National Register listed abolitionist related districts in Florence, and the Committee for Northampton may pursue landmark status for the Hill/Ross homestead. Ms. Lyon noted that the district is unusual because it is not contiguous. Mr. Gaffney moved to create a subcommittee of himself, Mr. Della Penna and Ms. Blumenthal to receive updates on the nomination and inform the Commission as needed. No actions will be taken. Seconded by Ms. Blumenthal, the motion carried unanimously.

**Elect Chair and Vice Chair**
Ms. Lyon noted that Ms. Estes and Mr. Drake recently resigned, and suggested that new members be recruited to apply to the Mayor’s office, including potentially another resident of the Local Historic District. The Commission is limited to a maximum of seven members without alternates by state statute. The Commission agreed to hold off on officer elections until a full Commission is present, and Ms. Lyon will serve as the temporary Chair.

**Proposed Demolition Review Ordinance Applicability Discussion**
Ms. LaValley will be attending a distressed properties workshop, and will look for ideas to incentivize property owners to maintain their historic structures, and examples of reporting systems for concerns.

**Cemetery Preservation Projects Update**
Ms. Lyon stated that stone work has begun with MassHistoric MPPF and CPA funds at Bridge Street Cemetery. The Burleigh monument at Park Street Cemetery was recently damaged but funding is not immediately available for repair.

**Other business not foreseen when agenda was prepared**
Ms. LaValley informed the Commission that the Historic Preservation Restriction held by the City on the historic Hampshire County Courthouse has been finalized and recorded.

**Adjourn**
The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM