



# *New Bedford Historical Commission*

January 5, 2015 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**

Room 314, City Hall, 133 William Street, New Bedford, MA

*Members Present:*

Diana Henry, Chairman  
Bill King, Vice Chair  
Bill  
Barr  
Keri  
Cox  
James Lopes  
Anne Louro  
Jill Maclean  
Corey Pacheco

*Members Absent:*

*Secretary:*

Janine da Silva

---

1. Call to order:  
D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that B. Barr will serve in the National Park Service position.
2. Approval of minutes:  
**A motion to approve the minutes of the 12.01.14 meeting with the necessary corrections was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. Barr. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**
3. Public Hearings:  
**24 North Front...demolition request**  
Al Hanscom, Beta Group, 315 Norwood Park South, Norwood, MA represented the applicant. The applicant received letter from Department of Inspectional Services on building condition, with the roof failing; the applicant placed a fence placed around property. Believes building poses a public safety hazard, the applicant wants to prevent a collapse.  
**A motion to open the public hearing was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**  
*Public comments in favor:* None.  
*Public comments recorded in favor:* None.  
*Public comments not in favor:* None  
*Public comments recorded not in favor:* None.  
**A motion to close the public hearing was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by B. Barr. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**  
NBHC members discussed the historical significance of the building and nothing has changed since 2006. The building is the last icehouse in the City of New Bedford and has high architectural significance as well. The building is located in the IPOD district and preservation is a component to be recognized as part of planning efforts.

**A motion to send a recommendation to the City Council finding 24 North Front Street historically significant and preferably preserved was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. Barr. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0,**

**C. Pacheco – yes**

**B. King - yes**

**B. Barr – yes**

**J. Maclean – yes**

**J. Lopes entered meeting after the vote**

### **26 Madeira Avenue...demolition request**

Will Gardner, Executive Director Alma Del Mar Charter School, 26 Madeira Avenue, New Bedford, MA presented application. The school recently purchased the school property from the City of Bew Bedford. School is growing each year, will become K-8 school within the next few years. The applicant intended to build and addition to the structure but an investigation revealed that the building condition is so deteriorated that it is not feasible to maintain the building and make it larger to hold students. The applicant would like to demolish the building and construct a new school. The applicant would like to begin construction this fall. NBHC members asked questions about building condition.

**A motion to open the public hearing was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

*Public comments in favor:*

- David Macedo, 8 Andy's Way, Acushnet, MA, former officer of the Feast, met with Mr. Gardner and thinks he is doing a good job.
- Bron Cunningham, 23 Arrowhead Lane, Marion, MA, volunteer at school, different environment, good structure for the children.
- Paul LeConte, 8 Seaward Lane, Fall River, MA 1958 graduate of Ottiwell School, member of the Feast committee, thinks this is a good project, not feasible to maintain building.
- Donal Neves, Dartmouth, MA, second VP of feast committee, good project

*Public comments recorded in favor:* None.

*Public comments not in favor:*

- Anthony Pereira, 4633 Acushnet Avenue, has any evaluation been made on historical value of property.
- Chris Andrade, 17 Willow Street, New Bedford, MA unfortunate that more city residents have spoken in favor or against the project. Sees impact on community, looking to double footprint of school and this will impact neighborhood. Will increase traffic and have uprooted neighbors. Believes that school has not fully looked at architectural beauty of school. Thinks NBHC should obtain more information on how new building will impact neighborhood and satisfy abutters with answers to their questions.
- Robert DeMello, 78 Earle Street, New Bedford, has concerns about school's capacity doubling, school shouldn't be demolished.
- Isabel Andrade, 17 Willow Street, New Bedford, MA there is no other building like that in the city; the City should have been better maintained. Wants to see the building preserved. To demolish is a disservice to the city and the residents of the city. There are

other buildings we hold onto and we should give this one the same consideration. Entire family in opposition to demolition.

*Public comments recorded not in favor:* None.

**A motion to close the public hearing was moved by B. Barr and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

NBHC members discussed the building's condition, deterioration has been occurring for decades. Any owner would come to same conclusion to apply for a demolition request.

**A motion to send a recommendation to the City Council finding 26 Madeira Avenue historically significant and not preferably preserved was moved by B. Barr and seconded by C. Pacheco. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.**

**J. Lopes – yes**

**C. Pacheco – yes**

**B. King – yes**

**B. Barr – yes**

**J. Maclean – yes**

4. New Business:

Election of officers – discussion of positions. D. Henry was asked to serve as Chair and B. King was asked to serve as Vice-Chair. Both accepted and the election will be held in February.

Discussion between members on landscaping being added into design guidelines. A. Louro will research the guidelines to determine how landscape is treated under MGL Chap 40C and the district guidelines.

A. Louro mentioned that the City is incorporating meeting materials onto the City website and will be available to NBHC members by computer or iPad.

BayCoast signage and drive-through at 25 Elm Street. The applicant has submitted a draft sign plan and tentative elevations for the drive-through.

No New Business was discussed and no motions were made at this time.

5. Old Business:

*New Bedford Historical Commission vacancies*

Application to be submitted for Meghan Kish, new superintendent of New Bedford Whaling NHP. NBHC members asked NBHC staff to ask Laurie Botelho if she might be interested.

50 North Second Street – NBHC staff to contact applicant about retaining wall and the status of the project.

70 North Second Street – NBHC staff will send letter to William Whelan, Jr. apprising him of vote at last meeting and requesting a meeting to discuss same.

No additional Old Business was discussed and no motions were made at this time.

6.     **Communications**  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission communication on the Algonquin Incremental Market Project.
7.     The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 133 William Street, New Bedford.
8.     **There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by B. Barr and seconded by B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.