



New Bedford Historical Commission

April 6, 2015 – 6:04 PM - **Minutes**

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

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Secretary:

Anne Louro

1. Call to Order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that J. Lopes would serve in the NPS position.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 02.23.15 meeting as written was moved by B. Barr and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed. A motion to approve the minutes of the 03.02.15 meeting as written was moved by J. Lopes and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The reading of the minutes was waived.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

34 Union Street- outdoor café seating. Applicant Barry Flynn presented the application for outdoor seating. A. Louro also provided supplemental information regarding the type of bollard being proposed. Images and specifications of the furniture as well as a layout plan were discussed.

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

Public comments in favor: None.

Public comments not in favor: None.

Public comments not in favor: None

Public comments recorded not in favor: None

A motion to suspend the public hearing was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Brief discussion took place amongst the members with no further questions.

A motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by C. Pacheco.

A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

4. Old Business:

- *Review of Application Fees.*

The history of the NBHC application fees was discussed with A. Louro informing the members that the current fees do not cover advertizing costs or, in the case of demolition, staff time. A. Louro provided examples of other Historical Commission's fee structures. Members preferred a tiered fee structure with a separate higher fee for demolition. A. Louro indicated that a revised fee structure would be included in a revised set of Commission Rules and Regulations to be discussed in depth at a future time.

5. New Business:

- *Review of Commission By-Laws*

A. Louro provided members with a preliminary rough draft of proposed revisions of the Commission's "by-laws". A. Louro pointed out that the "by-laws" were misnamed when initially adopted by the Commission in 1976, and should be correctly renamed as "Rules and Regulations." A. Louro and the members reviewed the proposed revisions and additions that were based on the SHPO's model Rules and Regulations, as well as other state commissions' adopted rules. Minor alterations were noted with discussion that the City Solicitor would review a draft of the revised Rules and Regulations prior to adoption at a future public hearing.

- *Meeting with 70 N Second Street property owner*

D. Henry updated members regarding a meeting which took place with Bill Whalen Jr., herself, J. Maclean, and A. Louro to discuss NBHC procedures and the properties at 66 and 70 N Second Street. D. Henry noted that Mr. Whalen stated that he did not receive notice of the December 2014 meeting on which the application for ball finials at 70 N. Second Street was scheduled to be heard. C. Pacheco stated that there is no rule, ordinance, or by-law making applicant notification necessary, only abutter notification. A. Louro stated that she does send applicant notification as a courtesy and by regular post mail. A. Louro agreed that it was not mandated to send this type of notification, however in order to avoid future issues such as this, she would send applicant meeting notices by certified mail. D. Henry suggested that the matter should be reheard. Members requested that city solicitor be present at the May meeting in which the application for 70 N Second Street will be reheard.

A motion that would allow the resubmission of the 70 N Second Street application for review, with the fee waived, was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

The board members asked that A. Louro prepare a staff report that would address the inappropriateness and incongruity of the application of ball finials to the granite fence posts. The Chair asked A. Louro to have research prepared regarding the fence finials for the May meeting and that research be provided to the members at least one week prior to the meeting. J. Lopes asked that photo documentation of other small Greek Revival

houses with fencing be included as well as images of fences with the proposed ball finial.

- *24 N Water Street*
B. King inquired if Quahog Republic had submitted an application to the NBHC. A. Louro stated that she has spoken to them and that she expected them to submit their application materials for the May meeting.
- *48 N Water Street*
B. King informed the commission that the property owner has placed a bright “for rent” sign on the stair entry way.
- *11 William Street*
B. King mentioned that Christmas lights were still in place and requested that a letter be sent noting that temporary holiday decorations should be removed.
- *Demolitions*
J. Lopes noted that the city sponsored Acushnet Avenue demolitions that had come before the NBHC in 2012 had been privately rehabilitated. A. Louro noted that 525 Purchase Street, which was part of the city-sponsored demolitions, was recently acquired by the City Treasurer through a tax title taking. J. Lopes inquired if St. Anne Church was seeking demolition. A. Louro informed the members that St. Anne Church did not meet the criteria of demolition review due to it not being 75 years or older. A. Louro stated that a communication from the NBHC was sent to the City Council stating that information, and that the NBHC found the structure to be architecturally and culturally significant and preferably preserved.

6. Communications:

Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund

A. Louro provided information regarding the state grant funding round which was open for applications. She explained the types of eligible projects, the available funding amounts, and that a match was required. J. Lopes inquired which projects the City may be considering. A. Louro noted that the City is in the midst of rehabilitating the exterior of the Zeiterion and it may be a good candidate, however no project decision had yet been determined.

7. Date of Next Meeting: The next regular commission meeting was scheduled for 05.04.15.

8. **There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louro
Secretary to the commission
Approved May 4, 2015