



New Bedford Historical Commission

September 14, 2015 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**

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

Members Present:

Diana Henry, Chairman

Jennifer Clarke

Keri Cox

Janine da Silva

Meghan Kish

James Lopes

Secretary:

Anne Louro

Members Absent:

Bill King, Vice Chairman

Bill Barr

Corey Pacheco

1. Call to Order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that J. Lopes would serve in the Land Owner/Tenant position, J. Clarke would serve in the primary Planning Division position, and Meghan Kish would serve in the primary Historical Organization position.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 and August 3, 2015 minutes with any necessary corrections was moved by J. da Silva and seconded by K. Cox. A vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0. J. Clarke abstained as she was not in attendance at the subject meetings. The reading of the minutes was waived.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

• **18 Johnny Cake Hill...installation of a flagpole.**

Michelle Taylor of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA presented the application request. M. Taylor explained that the request was for a 25 ' Single Mast Yardarm Nautical Flagpole to be installed on the east side of Johnny Cake Hill, adjacent to the parking lot entrance. J. da Silva and J. Clarke asked about the need for a concrete footing. M. Taylor indicated that there would be a flat, level footing and that the flagpole would be oriented to Johnny Cake Hill. The intent would be to fly the American flag and special occasion flags affiliated with the programming of the Whaling Museum. A security camera would be located as part of the pole's finial and the flagpole would be uplit.

A motion to open the public hearing was moved by J. Lopes and seconded by J da Silva. 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 J. Clarke and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

NBHC members discussed the application and sought details regarding the type of lighting to be used, the types of flags to be used, and the orientation of the pole as it relates to Johnny Cake Hill. M. Taylor indicated that she was unsure of the lighting but would have the architect forward the lighting and security camera information to staff. Any flags, in addition to the American flag, would be switched out to reflect special events and programming within the museum. The flagpole itself would be oriented so that the yardarms would be parallel to Johnny Cake Hill and that the rope and pulley system would be utilized in order to prevent the flag pole as presenting itself as a “crucifix.”

A motion to approve the application for a Certificate of Approval for a 25’ Single Mast Yardarm Nautical Flagpole was moved by J. da Silva and seconded by J. Clark with the conditions that the applicant submit shop drawings for the lighting and security camera as well as details for the type and location of the lighting; that the flagpole be sighted parallel to Johnny Cake Hill; and that the rope and pulley system of the Single Mast Yardarm be utilized. Approval to be conditional subject to review of the submitted materials in the field, by no more than three members of the commission who were in attendance at the meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

J. Clarke yes

K. Cox yes

J. da Silva yes

M. Kish yes

J. Lopes yes

4. Old Business:

• **70 N. Second Street granite pyramids**

The Chair asked the Secretary, A. Louro, to update members on the status of the removal of the ball finials on the granite posts at 70 N Second St. A. Louro stated that she had recently exchanged emails with the property owners’ secretary, Marie Pepin, who indicated that they were unable to receive a mock-up of the granite pyramid top and were seeking the mock-up from a new granite supplier. A. Louro submitted specifications for a mock-up that she developed in an effort to expedite the process. The Chair expressed her concerns with the amount of time that had transpired since the May meeting in which the applicant agreed to remove the ball finials and replace them with a granite pyramidal cap. J. da Silva stated that she received an inquiry from another District property owner questioning the lack of removal of the ball finials. J. Lopes stated that the Commission needed to enforce its requirements regarding the removal, as adequate time had passed for the applicant to come into compliance. Discussion moved to the type of violation letter to be sent to the property owner. J. Clarke indicated that staff would chronicle the timeline of the ball finials and confer with the City Solicitor then follow up with the Commission. Discussion took place regarding whether the secretary should send the mock-up specifications to the applicant or whether a violation notice should be sent instead.

A motion that the Secretary provides the applicant with the pyramid mock-up pending discussion

with the City Solicitor was moved by J. da Silva and seconded by J. Clarke. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

J. Clarke yes

K. Cox yes

J. da Silva yes

M. Kish yes

J. Lopes yes

5. New Business:

A. Louro provided members with images of recent District violations that would require a communication to the property owners. There was discussion regarding the screening of trash within the District; particularly cardboard. J. da Silva indicated that cardboard pick-up occurred only one time per week, accounting for the large amounts of cardboard on the street, and that it was not picked up in the morning, but later in the day. Rather than issue violations regarding the trash, the commissioners felt that it would be prudent to have discussion with the City and Downtown New Bedford Inc., regarding the trash and cardboard pick-up schedule.

6. Communications:

The Secretary briefed the members on the handicap appeal process for 38 Bethel Street in which the Commission is required to submit comments. A. Louro explained that on behalf of the Commission, she submitted comments to the Massachusetts Historical Commission finding that the alternate, side entry would satisfy the property's handicap accessibility and that altering the front façade would have an adverse affect on the historic resource.

7. Date of Next Meeting: The next regular commission meeting was scheduled for 10.05.15.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by J. da Silva and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louro

Secretary to the Commission

Approved October 5, 2015