



New Bedford Historical Commission

July 11, 2016 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**

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

Members Present:

Diana Henry, Chairman
Keri Cox
Janine da Silva
James Lopes

Members Absent:

Bill Barr
Bill King, Vice Chair

Secretary and City Planning Staff:

Anne Louro, *Preservation Planner*

Call to Order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call:

A formal roll call was conducted confirming a quorum of the members present as stated above. The Chair indicated that K. Cox would serve in one of the primary historical organization positions.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 6, 2016 public meeting and the June 6, 2016 executive session were approved with noted corrections.

Public Hearings:

MOTION to rearrange the Agenda so as to review 22 Centre Street first.

Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by K. Cox.

Motion carried.

1. CASE #2014.30

Dora & Trip Millikin

22 Centre Street (Map 53, Lot 191)

Modification to Certificate of Appropriateness: Exterior door and storm windows.

Anne Louro presented the application for the modification of Certificate #2014.30, explaining that this has been a careful restoration of the property whose scope of work has adapted based on what the building has revealed during the restoration.

The applicant is seeking to install storm windows which are a trim-line product from a manufacturer well known for its historic applications. A. Louro explained that the storm was clear glass, with a lower screen,

and that the meeting rails would align with the windows underneath. The color was an off white to match the windows.

The current federal style door was installed in the last rehabilitation, and the proposed six panel, solid mahogany door is a more accurate period style door for the building. The door will include locally made custom wrought iron hardware which is period accurate.

J. da Silva inquired how the storms were attached to the building or if they were pressure installed. A. Louro explained that they are screwed into the window jamb and sill.

MOTION to open the public hearing. Moved by j. da Silva and seconded by J. Lopes.

Motion carried.

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the petition, nor in opposition to the petition.

MOTION to close the public hearing. Moved by J. da Silva seconded by K. Cox.

Motion carried.

There was no member discussion regarding the application.

MOTION to approve the application and grant the modification to Certificate of Appropriateness #2014.30 and allow for the applied storm windows and new door. Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by J. Lopes.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

2. CASE #2016.13

Barry Flynn

34 Union Street (Map 47 Lot 39)

Certificate of Appropriateness: New Signage.

A. Louro presented the application on behalf of applicant who was unable to attend the meeting. A. Louro noted that the property had previously received a Certificate of Appropriateness for new signage and window decal a few years back and that the applicant had recently changed the window decal and was seeking a Certificate for that change.

A. Louro described the new window film as being applied to the exterior of the plate glass, consisting of frosted vinyl, red vinyl edging, digital printed logo, Irish Cross, and the Ireland Coat of Arms. She noted that she had spoken to the manufacturer who indicated that the product durability was five to seven years under normal conditions.

A. Louro noted that the business name was included in the decal, as allowed, and that the Irish symbols aligned themselves as identifiers of the business operations as an Irish Pub. She recommended that the Commission grant the Certificate of Appropriateness.

MOTION to open the public hearing. Moved by J. Lopes and seconded by K. Cox.

Motion carried.

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the petition, nor in opposition to the petition.

MOTION to close the public hearing. Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by K. Cox.

Motion carried.

There was no member discussion regarding the sign proposal.

MOTION to approve the application as submitted and grant the Certificate of Appropriateness for 34 Union Street. Moved by J. Lopes and seconded by J. da Silva.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. CASE #2016.14
Old Dartmouth Historical Society AKA Whaling Museum
18 Johnny Cake Hill (Map 53 Lot 161)
Certificate of Appropriateness: HVAC screening.

Michelle Taylor, Vice President, Operations and CFO of the Whaling Museum presented the application accompanied by Brian Southerland of C3 Engineering and Tony DiGiantommaso of Page Building Construction Company. Ms. Taylor explained that the Museum had recently installed a rooftop condensing unit as part of its HVAC project and due to the roof formations, its installation location resulted in the unit being visible from William Street, the Whaling Museum Plaza and the pier. Ms. Taylor noted that they have since painted the unit black in an effort to camouflage its appearance and are hoping that painting is sufficient for the Commission and is seeking a hardship due to the anticipated costs associated with screening the unit.

A. Louro sought clarification of the application request, which was for screening. Ms. Taylor responded that if the screening was a requirement that they would move forward with that, however if the black paint was sufficient, that would be their preference due to the extra cost associated with the screening.

Ms. Taylor provided images from several locations demonstrating the HVAC unit before and after paint. Ms. Taylor inquired as to whether the District requirement for rooftop equipment was for the equipment to be painted black. She noted that the view of the HVAC unit from the pier was greatly subdued with the unit painted black. She admitted that the visibility from the plaza is not ideal and that the museum was not happy with it, but was necessary due to the lack of roof space. She explained that in this location of the museum complex that there is a mix of historic and modern architectural materials, including granite, brick and steel beams. She expressed the museum's concern with the application of screening which would add weight to the roof and penetrate the roof.

J. da Silva expressed that she thought the museum would want to apply screening as this was a significant tourist photo spot and that the HVAC unit, even painted black, would place prominently in photographs. J. Lopes agreed. Ms. Taylor recognized and shared this concern as well. J. da Silva made note of a proposed brick veneer wall partition which Ms. Taylor admitted that they had submitted, but no longer wished to pursue as a screening solution due to its cost and need for roof penetration.

A. Louro asked if the manufactured screening system specifications which were submitted with the application were still an option for the museum. Ms. Taylor responded that if the commission requires screening they would consider this product. She explained that it was a molded plastic product that had an approximate cost of \$12,000 and due to its material design; the molded brick offering may not match the existing historic brick. D. Henry asked if there were able to provide material samples. Ms. Taylor stated that there were no product samples and that she did not want to present the brick veneer partition solution, as she did not believe a new brick partition would match well against the historic brick of the Bourne Building and further it would require roof penetration and be costly.

J. Lopes noted that the manufactured screening did not require roof penetrations. M. Taylor acknowledged this and clarified that the manufactured screening system, not the brick veneer, was the \$12,000 cost.

Mr. Southerland stated that the quoted \$12,000 was for an L shaped partition that screened the plaza and William Street views. M. Taylor stated that they had hoped to not screen the rear of the HVAC unit due to additional costs, and that the black paint application would eliminate the need of screening the entire unit. The commission agreed that screening of the rear was not necessary due to the paint application and distance.

M. Taylor provided members with a Photoshop image of screening with a gray paneled material that was more modern and in line with the style of the Jacob's Gallery. A. Louro inquired if the manufacturer required company installation, noting that the quoted manufacture installation cost was equal to the material cost. Mr. DiGiantomaso stated that this was a general quote and that a local company could install the screening at an estimated lower cost and that would be the approach they would pursue in an effort to lower the cost.

MOTION to open the public hearing. Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by K. Cox.

Motion carried.

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the petition, nor in opposition to the petition.

MOTION to close the public hearing. Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by J. Lopes

Motion carried.

Commission members expressed the preference for screening at the William Street/Plaza location, acknowledging that the black paint application was sufficient for the rear of the HVAC unit. J. Lopes noted that the mix of architectural styles and materials may dictate the screening material choice. D. Henry expressed concern for approving a screening material without a product sample. There was discussion regarding the request for a variety of manufacturer samples in different colors, and Ms. Taylor agreed that the Museum would order manufacturer samples for the Commission to review at their August meeting.

Motion to table the Certificate of Appropriateness for HVAC screening to the August 1, 2016 meeting.

Moved by J. da Silva and seconded by J. Lopes.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

Other:

- **Certificates of Non-Applicability.** The Preservation Planner advised the membership as to several Certificates of Non-Applicability recently granted as follows:
- **Seaport Artwalk, Temporary Art Installation.** Commission members were informed that the Seaport Artwalk was an annual request to place temporary art within the public right of way within the District.
- **41 William Street (Map 53 Lot 95) Awning replacement.**
The Commissioners were informed that the awning at 41 William Street had recently been damaged and removed. The replacement awning would be the same as the original.
- **19 Centre Street (Map 53 Lot 227) Roof shingle replacement.**
The Commissioners were informed that the property owner would be replacing the current asphalt roof shingle with a three tab asphalt shingle to match the existing color.

- **Communication from Massachusetts Historical Commission: RE 20 S Sixth Street, Levi Standish House**

A. Louro informed members that the NBHC had received a communication from the Massachusetts Historical Commission advising that the revised design of the building addition to the Standish House would have “no adverse effect” on the Standish House or the County Street National Register District providing that certain design modifications were met.
- **Communication from Massachusetts Historical Commission: Survey & Planning Grant submittal.**

A. Louro informed members that the submitted grant for Cemetery Assessment and Gravestone Conservation had not be funded in the re-opened grant cycle, however since the grant application was completed, the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development would strongly consider submitting the same proposal in the next grant cycle.
- **Communication from Massachusetts Historical Commission: Ash Street Jail accessibility variance.**

A. Louro informed members that the Massachusetts Historical Commission supported the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance’s request for a variance from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board for the Ash Street Jail.
- **Non-Historic Demolition Classification: 64-66 Emma Street.**

A. Louro advised members regarding a recent demolition request for a circa 1915 two-story wood framed structure located at 64-66 Emma Street, which was deemed to be non-historic by the Preservation Planner, who is the designee for the historical commission on these matters. She informed the members that the property abutted the Hannigan School site and was recently acquired by the City with the intent to extend the property site dimensions for the new school construction.
- **114 Front Street**

J. da Silva advised the Chair that the property located at 114 Front Street was in the process of repointing its masonry and inquired whether a Certificate of Non Applicability for the work had been submitted to the Commission. The Chair noted that Commission Staff would review the matter and act accordingly.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by J. Lopes and seconded by J. da Silva. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING Monday, August 1, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louro
Secretary to the Historical Commission
Preservation Planner