



New Bedford Historical Commission

March 3, 2014 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**

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

****View Agenda****

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Bill Barr
Jill Maclean

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 A. Louro would serve in the City of New Bedford Planner position and J. Lopes would serve in the local organization position for K. Cox.

2. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 02.03.14 meeting was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes of the 02.24.14 meeting was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by A. Louro. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearings:

60 North Water Street...new signage

A motion to reopen the public hearing was moved by A. Louro and seconded by B. King. 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 continue the public hearing was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

NBHC staff reported that she contacted the CNB Solicitor regarding placement of the signs on the streetlamps, no problem has been foreseen. NBHC members discussed how the new signage could be placed on the streetlamps. NBHC staff will also contact the Traffic Commission regarding signage in the district. Discussion on how to distinguish “No Parking” on a private way. Concern about enforcement when there are visitors to the district who do not know that the street is a private way.

1116 Chaffee Street...demolition request

Joe De Sousa, 97 Moser Street, Dartmouth, MA presented the application for the demolition of 1116 Chaffee Street to build three new residences. The house sits on two lots, one on Chaffee Street, the second on Oswald Street, which is a paper street. House has structural problems, rot, termites, and water damage. A. Louro spoke on the historical and architectural context of the property. Built in 1921, it has morphed into a 1950s ranch style. There is no atypical context to distinguish it from others in the neighborhood. The property was constructed by a French Canadian entrepreneur in the north end of New Bedford. The builder never lived in the house; it was built for speculative purposes. This was part of a planned development of the far North End. The new houses will be 1600 square feet.

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 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. Lopes and seconded by B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion that the New Bedford Historical Commission sends a recommendation to the New Bedford City Council finding 1116 Chaffee Street not historically significant and not preferably preserved was moved by A. Louro and seconded by B. King. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0. C. Pacheco – yes

**J. Lopes – yes A. Louro –
yes B. King – yes**

4. New Business:

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

5. Old Business:

177 Cove Street – A. Louro reported that demolition was on City Council agenda but it was put on the Appointments and Briefings calendar. That date has not yet been set.

Chapter 40 C Guidelines

A. Louro spoke on last week's meeting and that there are many items to address in our Guidelines. Need to assess use of line drawings like the Providence Guidelines rather than photographs. NBHC staff, A. Louro and C. Pacheco will meet to review the Guidelines.

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

6. Communications

NBHC staff mentioned that the Rotch-Jones-Duff House came for a letter of support for the MA Cultural Facilities Fund. A. Louro reported that there are five entities applying for that grant program – First Baptist Church, Your Theater, New Bedford Port Society (Mariner's Home), Gallery X, Rotch-Jones-Duff House and may request letters of support this week.

A. Louro has received Section 106 letters that requires responses with respect to sidewalk and road improvements on Kings Highway and Coggeshall Street.

7. The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at 33 William Street, New Bedford.

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 7:18 p.m.