



New Bedford Historical Commission

July 14, 2014 – 6:02 PM - **Minutes**
33 William Street, New Bedford, MA

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Jill Maclean
Bill Barr

Secretary:

Janine da Silva

1. Call to order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that A. Louro will serve for the City Planner, and J. Lopes would serve in the National Park Service position.

2. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 06.02.14 meeting was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes of the 06.09.14 meeting was moved by J. Lopes and seconded by C. Pacheco. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearings:

36 North Water Street...new signage

Richard Poyant presented the application. The applicant described to be installed by Litos Strategic Communication on the former Duff Gallery building. The two-sided blade sign is white background with a 1" blue panel stating Litos. Litos will be occupying the first floor, the second floor is without a tenant.

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

A motion to approve the application and grant the Certificate of Appropriateness for the new signage as presented was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

A. Louro – yes

K. Cox – yes

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

89 West Rodney French Boulevard...demolition request for partial demolition of a circa 1910 brick chimney stack

Bill Hanrahan, 5 Dartmouth Drive, Milford, consultant for Alcatel-Lucent, representative of the applicant Sprint Spectrum, presented application for the demolition. The top 20 feet of stack are in poor condition. Applicant read a letter from Gibraltar Chimney, inspection in 2012, report in November 2012; the situation warrants immediate attention. There are open mortar joints and Mr. Hanrahan stated it would not be cost effective to repoint the upper part of the chimney. The applicant would remove the 20 feet and stack the debris inside the chimney which and capping the chimney. NBHC members asked for clarification of the submitted reports with respect to the joint failures on the chimney. NBHC members expressed concern since it seems that the top section of the chimney seems to be no more deteriorated than the rest of the chimney.

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

NBHC members asked questions on the use of the chimney. The owner received rent for the telecommunications equipment on the stack and that is the only reason why the owner would maintain the stack. The stack is no longer used as a flue for the boiler room. New Bedford used to be a city of smokestacks and very few remain in the city because this type of use is no longer needed.

Motion to receive report and place on file was moved by A. Louro and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to make a recommendation to the New Bedford City Council finding that the top 20 feet of the chimney at 89 West Rodney French Boulevard is historically significant and not preferably preserved was moved by J. Lopes and seconded by A. Louro. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 3-2.

A. Louro – yes

K. Cox – yes

C. Pacheco – no

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – no

4. New Business:

70 North Second Street...landscaping

NBHC staff mentioned the “cannonballs” on the tops of the granite piers and asked the NBHC for their opinion. NBHC staff will contact the applicant to discuss the situation at the next meeting.

NB Whaling Museum letter regarding the balustrade and shutters

NBHC members discussed the letter submitted to the NBHC regarding re-installation of the shutters and the balustrade. The Chair asked NBHC staff to locate some photographic evidence on the shutters. **Motion to table discussion to next meeting was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

36 North Water Street

NBHC members discussed signage inside the windows on the first floor stairwell of the building. **Motion to send a letter to all property owners in district regarding signage and other topics was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

5. Old Business:

Chapter 40 C Guidelines

John Turk presented the revised draft of the new Guidelines for the district.

48 North Water Street

NBHC staff reported on the question of the approved colors for the building. The applicant had the painter contact staff to examine the paint colors on the building in comparison to the paint chips. NBHC staff also spoke to the painter about the placement of the street signs on the building. NBHC staff will prepare a letter, including photos of the signs to relocate the signs to the original location.

Motion to send letter asking the property owner to re-install the signs in the original locations was moved by B. King and seconded by C. Pacheco. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

A. Louro – yes

K. Cox – yes

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

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

6. Communications

FERC letter circulated to NBHC members.

7. The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 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 8:46 p.m.