



New Bedford Historical Commission

August 18, 2014 – 6:05 PM - **Minutes**
City Hall, 133 William Street, New Bedford, MA

Members Present:

Diana Henry, Chairman
Bill King, Vice Chair
Keri Cox
Anne Louro
Jill Maclean

Members Absent:

Bill Barr
James Lopes
Corey Pacheco

Acting Secretary:

Anne Louro

1. Call to order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that A. Louro will serve in the vacant Architect position.

2. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 07.14.14 meeting as written was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. J. Maclean abstained as she was not in attendance for that meeting. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The reading of the minutes was waived.

3. Public Hearings:

29 Centre Street...new signage.

Courtney Saunders and Katie Howland, property owners, presented the application for a new double faced blade sign. The sign is 38" high and 40" wide, including an integrated black metal frame. The interior dimensions of the sign are 34" by 34." The two-sided MDO sign has a black background with gold (gilt) letters and design. The sign will be attached to the building by a flush mounted black metal bracket.

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: John Saunders and Jay Williams spoke in favor of the sign.

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 J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

NBHC members discussed the application. Pictures of a cardboard sign mock up taken on site depicted the size of the sign in relationship to the storefront. All agreed that the size of the sign was

acceptable. B. King asked that for the sign to be installed into mortar with conditional approval of support wire if requirement is determined at time of installation.

A motion to approve the application for the new sign was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. King. A roll call was taken and the motion passed 4-0.

J. Maclean- yes

B. King-yes

K. Cox-yes

A. Louro-yes

4. New Business:

50 North Second Street (WS Bethel Street)...retaining wall

Courtney Cohen of Prime Engineering presented the information as a preliminary discussion prior to formal approval from the NBHC. Ms. Cohen explained that the current granite block wall is failing; with the use of concrete patching in several locations. She explained that the current granite block cannot be engineered for use due to height. She presented the new wall material whose manufacturer is Redi-Rock, which is a pre-cast concrete material that uses a mesh interlock technique for stability. Several photos of the current wall's existing condition were presented as well as images of the product in the field. A sample of the Redi-Rock in color grey was brought in for examination and all agreed that it was the preferred color choice. Discussion regarding the height of the wall took place. The applicant would like to raise the height of the wall to act as an automobile guard mitigation. Members had concerns regarding the height and asked for photo-shopped images to be provided in the future application. J. Maclean suggested that the applicant seek consultation with Inspectional Services for appropriate stop methods. All agreed that a formal application using the Redi-Rock material should be submitted to the NBHC for consideration and formal review.

Buntings in the District

The Chair voiced concerns regarding the amount of buntings and banners being placed within the District without approval. A. Louro presented historic images of buntings in the downtown and discussion centered on the difference between a bunting and an American Flag. The Design Guidelines allows for the display of American Flags without a CA. A. Louro was going to consult with Chris Skelly to check if there was a way to condition the fastening of flags and buntings. There was also brief discussion about regulating the time period in which buntings could be hung, i.e.; from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Canopy at 11 William Street

A temporary type canopy has been installed at 11 William Street without an application or approval. Although it is the type of canvas canopy that is designed to be temporary, it has been attached to the adjacent building. A motion to have Staff send a notice letter to the property owner was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business:

Chapter 40C Guidelines

it was determined that due to lack of members in attendance that the vote to adopt the guidelines would be postponed until the September meeting.

Sundial Building...shutters and balustrade

The Whaling Museum had sought to not reinstall the balustrade and window shutters as was previously approved in a CA from the 1990's. This has been discussed at previous meetings and Jim Lopes, through the Chair, provided historic images demonstrating that the building did not always have the balustrade or shutters. There was brief discussion with all in agreement that if there was no photographic evidence then the Whaling Museum should not be forced to reinstall these items and that Staff should relay this to the Whaling Museum.

70 North Second Street...landscaping details

A brief discussion regarding the "cannon balls" on top of the granite piers at 70 North Second took place. All agreed that this treatment was not part of the original application and that the property owner should be notified of this violation. A motion to have Staff send a notice letter to the property owner was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

District Violation Enforcement

The Chair suggested that NBHC members should take part in the enforcement of the District's bylaws and guidelines by walking the District and talking to property owners. J. Maclean made note that it would be difficult for her and A. Louro to participate in this activity as City employees. The Chair and members agreed. J. Maclean suggested that the Commission be proactive and send a welcome packet to new property owners and utilize the new guidelines as a means to reach out to all of the District property owners.

6. The next regular commission meeting was scheduled for 09.08.14
7. **There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m.