



New Bedford Historical Commission

September 8, 2014 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**
City Hall, 133 William Street, New Bedford, MA

Members Present:

Diana Henry, Chairman
Bill King, Vice Chair
Bill Barr
James Lopes
Anne Louro
Jill Maclean
Corey Pacheco

Members Absent:

Keri Cox

Acting Secretary:

Anne Louro

1. Call to order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., confirming a quorum. The Chair indicated that B. Barr will serve in the vacant NBWNHP position.

2. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 08.18.14 meeting as written was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The reading of the minutes was waived.

3. Public Hearings:

48 N. Water Street...new signage

Roger Judge presented his proposed signage and explained that he was moving from Front Street in Marion and was retaining the name for business purposes. There was discussion amongst members for the desire to have Photoshop images of the sign on the building. The Secretary explained that the application was submitted prior to the decision to have all signs submit Photoshop images. The Chair asked the applicant if he would have a sign company produce the Photoshop images and present at a Special Meeting to be held the week of September 22nd. The applicant agreed.

A motion to open the public hearing was waived and a motion to table the matter was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

NS Elm Street ...new signage

The City's Office of Tourism submitted an application to install a State Cultural District Sign on the north side of Elm Street, near the Standard Times Building. A map and photograph were submitted to the Secretary; however both the Secretary and a member of the Tourism Office were not present to answer questions. There was discussion amongst members regarding the exact location and the type

and size of pole that would be utilized. Due to the need of more specificity the Chair recommended that the table should be tabled.

A motion to open the public hearing was waived and a motion to table the matter was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

WS Bethel Street...removal and replacement of granite retaining wall

Courtney Cohen of Prime Engineering presented and distributed existing conditions photos as well as Photoshop images to the members and had a sample of the proposed Redi-Rock pre-cast concrete material in the color grey. At the 08.18.14 meeting the applicant submitted a preliminary proposal to the Commission in which there was discussion about raising the height of the wall approximately two feet to act as a “car stop”. After more thought, and the consideration of aesthetics, the applicant proposed to retain the existing wall height and to either add curb stops or a simple black railing with enhanced landscaping to obscure the sight of the railing. There was discussion amongst members regarding the height of the wall. J. Maclean stated that she preferred the use of a rail instead of the increased height of the wall. B. King asked if the stairs on the south end of the wall was to remain, with the response that they would. B. Barr and C. Pacheco voiced their concerns with the modern look of the Redi-Rock material and expressed the need for a new material to better match the existing granite in color and size. Ms. Cohen explained how the Redi-Rock is installed and also how a stone-faced product would be laid. B. Barr asked the applicant if they would be willing to look for a product that had a larger stone face; preferably a granite-faced product. The applicant agreed.

A motion to open the public hearing was waived and a motion to table the matter was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by B. Barr. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

4. New Business:

Carl Simmons Proposal

Carl Simmons of 370 Maple Street explained that he performs historical research related to the City; most recently researching Ricketson and Brooklawn Park. He explained that he often has difficulty accessing many of the city’s documents. He was hoping to gain the support of the Commission to research buildings, objects and sites and access the city’s repositories for the public good. Under the authority or the auspices of the Historical Commission he could carry out research and produce surveys and photographs of the resulting research. There was brief discussion amongst members with questions directed to Mr. Simmons. A. Louro explained that consultants hired by the City are often provided access to city documents through communication from the NBHC or Planning Office Staff. J. Lopes inquired about insurance liability. A. Louro responded that all of the consultants who are contracted through the City must provide some type of Liability Insurance. Mr. Simmons indicated that there was once a Commission of Historical Objects within the city and perhaps there was precedence that existed within that commission. J. Lopes suggested that the matter be sent to counsel to determine if there is any type of precedent and to inquire about liability.

A motion to send a communication to the Solicitor’s Office was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

New Commission Members

The Chair asked if there was any information regarding the appointment and seating of new members. A. Louro responded that the NBWNHP seat should now be filled with Meghan Kish, the new Superintendent. A. Louro also relayed information from the Secretary that Jeremiah Hernandez

has moved back to the District and that the Secretary also recommended Kristin DeSouza, Superintendent of the Haskell Public Gardens.

A motion to send a communication to the Mayor's Office with the recommendations was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

5. Old Business:

Chapter 40C Guidelines

A. Louro explained that the last edits had been sent to the consultant. There was a question as to whether the acceptance could be delayed. A. Louro explained that the Commission was required to adopt the Guidelines at this meeting due to the consultant contract expiring.

A motion to accept the Design Guidelines revised as of date was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded B. King. All voted in favor except for B. Barr who abstained.

Chapter 40C Guidelines Continued

Members discussed the pros and cons of sending the Guidelines to the property owners. J. Maclean felt that the first encounter with regulations should be positive with the utilization of a welcome packet. B. Barr felt that the Guidelines could be seen as too heavy handed. A. Louro clarified that the Guidelines were not new regulations, but a user-friendly packaging of the existing regulations based on the Secretary of the Interior Guidelines that have always been the basis for the Commission's decision-making.

A motion to adopt the Design Guidelines revised as of date was moved by J. Maclean and seconded B. King. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Violation Letters

Members questioned whether the previously discussed violation letters were sent. A. Louro responded that she was not certain if the Secretary had sent them yet. There was further discussion regarding enforcement of the District's regulations and the participation of Commission members visiting property owners to address violations and the introduction of the Guidelines. B. King asked if the Secretary could check with *The Landing* owners to determine if they will be replacing the temporary sign with the approved signage. B. King also asked if the Secretary could check if the *Seamen's Bethel* would be before the Commission in the near future for approval of a final design.

6. The Special commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of 09.22.14

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 7:38p.m.