



New Bedford Historical Commission

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

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Jill Maclean

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 B. Barr will serve in the National Park Service position and J. Lopes would serve in the local preservation organization position.

2. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 09.08.14 meeting was moved by B. Barr and seconded by C. Pacheco. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearings:

89 North Water Street...new signage

Amelia Ruvich presented the application for the new signage. The burger sign is designed to look “old fashioned” and relate to the current signage in the downtown. The primary entry will be the Elm Street entrance.

A motion to open the public hearing was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by J. Lopes. 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 B. Barr. 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 at 89 North Water Street as presented was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by B.

Barr. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0, with one abstention.

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

B. Barr – yes

K. Cox – abstain

48 North Water Street...new signage

Motion to remove the application for new signage from the table was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

R. Judge presented the application for new signage at 48 North Water Street. The sign is 28 inches by 42 inches and is made of carved wood with gold leaf lettering and shell motif. NBHC members discussed regarding where the sign will hang on the building.

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

NBHC members discussed the location of the sign. The applicant answered questions on the bracket, NBHC members asked the applicant to provide NBHC staff with the shop drawings for the bracket as soon as possible.

A motion to approve the application and grant the Certificate of Appropriateness for the new signage at 48 North Water Street with the condition that the sign is installed at the higher location between the two windows on the second floor and that NBHC staff approve the bracket when submitted by the applicant was moved by B. King and seconded by B. Barr. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

B. Barr – yes

K. Cox – yes

NS Elm Street...new signage

Motion to remove the application for new signage from the table was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A. Louro presented the application answering questions from the previous meeting concerning the height of the sign and location whether in the brick or on the grass. The grass area is owned by the Standard Times so the sign will be in the brick.

A motion to open the public hearing was moved by K. Cox 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 B. King 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 on the NS Elm Street as presented was moved by B. Barr and seconded by K. Cox. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

B. Barr – yes

K. Cox – yes

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

Motion to remove the application for the wall replacement from the table was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

David Fentress and Courtney Cohen presented the application, answering questions posed by NBHC members at the last meeting. The applicant went to Hi-Way Concrete in Wareham and the material looked more like cobblestone rather than granite block. The applicant also checked out Redi-Rock LedgeStone and Redi-Scapes material. Applicant will reuse existing granite blocks as a curb stop to stop vehicles.

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 K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the application and grant the Certificate of Appropriateness for the removal and replacement of a granite wall on the WS Bethel Street/SS Elm Street using the Redi-Scapes product in the color sample presented to the NBHC at the meeting with the replacement wall replicating the dimensions of the existing wall and the condition that the applicant work with NBHC staff on the configuration of the curb stop was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-1.

C. Pacheco – yes

J. Lopes – yes

B. King – yes

B. Barr – no

K. Cox – yes

4. New Business:

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

5. Old Business:

New Bedford Historical Commission vacancies

NBHC staff reported that she contacted Kristin DeSouza and Jeremiah Hernandez, as two possible candidates and had not received a response from either. B. King indicated that Mr. Hernandez had not moved into the district as of yesterday and would most likely not be able to fill that vacancy.

Violation letters

NBHC staff reported that the letters had been drafted and will be sent to the Chair for review.

Carl Simmons request

Mr. Simmons asked for NBHC approval and authorization to enter private residences to examine historical artifacts in people's homes. NBHC members asked how would liability be addressed since he is not a city employee and on city property. Is the Historical Artifacts committee to be reconstituted? J. Lopes will contact City Solicitor Kreg Espinola.

The Landing signage

NBHC staff spoke to the applicant about installation of the sign on 98 Front Street. Apparently the signs will take three months to fabricate; the applicant will contact the signmaker about the signs.

Seamen's Bethel/Mariners Home final design

Final designs will be submitted once the finances are in place.

Bunting in the historic district

Bunting on 60 North Water Street has been moved to 11 William Street. NBHC staff will contact the property owner.

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

6. Communications

Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey & Planning Grant Program

NBHC members discussed the Grant Program and how best to use that type of funding in New Bedford. NBHC members thought it would be best to apply for monies to survey neighborhoods not yet surveyed.

Motion to send a letter to the CNB Office of Housing Community Development and Planning to encourage the office to submit an application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey & Planning Grant Program focusing on the city's neighborhoods and districts that have not yet been surveyed was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Lopes. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

7. The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at 133 William Street, New Bedford.
8. **There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by B. King and seconded by C. Pacheco. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.