

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

**February 12, 2009
CHASE BUILDING, 44 FRONT STREET, WORCESTER
SUITE 300 – CONFERENCE ROOM**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Thomas Constantine, Vice Chair
James Crowley
Timothy McCann
Janet Merrill
Michael Theerman

Staff Present: Luba Zhaurova, Planning and Regulatory Services

REGULAR MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 29, 2009 meetings were accepted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **34 Bowdoin Street (HC-2009-003) – Building Demolition Delay Waiver:** Douglas Tufts, representative for Ilione Tufts, petitioner, presented the petition. The petitioner was seeking a Building Demolition Delay Waiver in order to install a full 12-foot wide dormer on the downhill side of the building. The Commission asked why the applicant had decided to extend the dormer approved by the Commission in June of 2008. Mr. Tufts responded that he felt that extending the dormer would provide more headroom and light and thus would improve this five-family house's marketability. Commissioner Constantine asked if the previously approved dormer has been constructed. Mr. Tufts responded that everything is ready for the construction which will begin soon.

Commissioner Theerman expressed doubt that the proposed dormer would increase the house's value because its roofline is not consistent with the previously approved dormer and thus does not look aesthetically pleasing. He then suggested that the roofline of both dormers is continuous. Chair Schneider stated that he believes the proposal would negatively impact the streetscape of the neighborhood, but since most of the original exterior of the house has been changed, he would vote to approve the project. He also

said that he would prefer not to see the southern-most tip of the proposed dormer too close to the rake of the roof on the building face. Commissioner McCann echoed Commissioner Theerman's suggestion that the entire width of the dormer has the same roofline and then sketched it on the elevation plan (Exhibit A). Mr. Tufts was amenable to the change.

Upon reviewing the petition submitted and the evidence provided, and upon a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 6-0 that the proposed demolition would not be detrimental to the architectural or historical resources of the City of Worcester and the Building Demolition Delay Waiver was approved with the condition that the construction is done in accordance with the elevation plan marked "Exhibit A" and that the proposed dormer extends south and along the roofline of the dormer approved on June 12, 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regular Mailings to LHD: Commissioner Crowley suggested sending regular (e.g. annual) mailings to the residents and owners of properties in the City's Local Historic District (LHD) with information about implications of living in a LHD. Chair Schneider supported the idea. Ms. Merrill suggested that the mailings could be done through Neighborhood Associations in the area. Chair Schneider concluded that the Commission will need to communicate this idea to Joel Fontane, the Planning and Regulatory Services Director with regards to funding and implementation of this project.

Rural Cemetery: Commissioner Theerman informed the Commission that he was contacted by Marcus McCorrison with regards to the Rural Cemetery being placed on the National Historic Registry and MACRIS list. Commissioner Theerman stated that he referred Mr. McCorrison to Chris Skelly of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. He then said that Mr. McCorrison might want to ask the Commission for a letter of support to which the Commission seemed amenable.

Institute Park: Chair Schneider said that he read in the Telegram and Gazette an article about a proposal to build a two-lane road across the Salisbury Pond in Institute Park leading toward the proposed Worcester Fire Fighters Memorial. This proposal would convert a proposed footbridge to a bridge that can be served by vehicles in case of fire emergency. The Commission was puzzled by the reason for expanding the proposed bridge since the monument is not located on an island and can be accessed from Grove Street. Commissioner Theerman added that if the two-lane bridge is built, then small boats and canoes will not be able to pass under it. Chair Schneider suggested writing a letter to the Park Department's Acting Commissioner Robert Antonelli and requesting that the Historical Commission be informed about the project and allowed to comment on it. When Ms. Merrill asked, Chair Schneider said that Institute Park is not listed as a historic property. The Commission seemed unanimously opposed to the expansion of the proposed bridge, while Commissioner Theerman was opposed to any bridge across the Salisbury Pond.

Crown Hill LHD Grant: The Commission authorized Chair Schneider 5-0 to sign correspondence of the DPRS with Massachusetts Historical Commission with regards to the FY'09 Survey and Planning Grant funds.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.