

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
MAY 11, 2006
418 MAIN STREET, SUITE 400**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Tom Johnson, Vice-Chair
Thomas Conroy, Clerk
Michael Theerman
Jeanice Sherman

Staff Present: Ruth Gentile, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services
Lara Bold, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

REGULAR MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the April 27, 2006 minutes with the amendment that the phrase "PhD candidates" referenced in the discussion of Worcester State Hospital site be changed to "PhD faculty".

The Commission tabled a motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve the April 13, 2006 minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. 17 Southgate Place Demolition:** Lara Bold, Planning Analyst, indicated that there will be a scheduled update on this project on June 8, 2006, unless additional information is available beforehand. Commissioner Johnson and Deborah Packard, Executive Director of Preservation Worcester, stated they knew someone who they would recommend to do the site evaluation.

- 2. Fire Alarm Telegraph Building** – Ms. Bold reported that Robert Antonelli, Assistant Commissioner of the Parks Department, stated the Fire Alarm Telegraph Building is in good structural condition and is undergoing some roof repairs. Mr. Antonelli also stated that a walk-through of the building would be possible sometime in June.

- 3. Massachusetts Trial Court – Gilman Display** – Chair Schneider gave an update on the May 10, 2006 meeting with Charles Willse. He indicated that the new plans presented by Mr. Willse showed the Gilman Display on the first floor of the Trial Court lobby on a side wall. Chair Schneider requested that the Massachusetts Trial Court remain on the agenda as unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

- 4. 144-146 Main Street (HC-06-07) Building Demolition Delay Permit:** Dan Harden, representative for Lensyd Nominee Trust presented the petition. Mr. Harden stated that the applicant seeks to renovate the storefronts. He also stated that the renovated building would be used for legal offices, a barber shop and a café/restaurant. He indicated that the windows were removed and replaced with double pane, insulating glass as previously approved by the Historical Commission. He also clarified that three doors would be removed and replaced, including one on the side entrance. Mr. Harden stated that the building would be handicap accessible. Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, *the Commission found that the proposed demolition of the designated historic building at 144-146 Main Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage or resources of the City of Worcester* and approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 5. Worcester State Hospital** – Chair Schneider gave an update on the proposed facility at Worcester State Hospital. The Commissioners expressed concern for the clock tower, the Hooper shops and other existing structures. Commissioner Sherman also expressed concern with the fact that the new facility was designed prior to Worcester's selection as the site. Commissioner Theerman offered to write a letter voicing the Commission's concerns to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- 6. Local Historic District Signs** – Chair Schneider expressed concern with the small font size on the current signage for the Montvale Local Historical District and Massachusetts Avenue Local Historical District. He stated that there have been complaints from others that the signs are illegible and that some have been vandalized. He asked if staff could check with Joe Borbone about enlarging the font for future signs in the area.
- 7.** The Commission took up the tabled motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve the April 13, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman and the Commission voted 4-0 (Thomas Conroy abstained) to approve the April 13, 2006 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peter Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

