

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

December 17, 2020

CITY HALL*

Commission Members Participating:

Mark Wamback, Chair
Randolph Bloom
Diane Long
Tomi Stefani
Janet Theerman

Commission Members Not Participating:

Devon Kurtz, Vice-Chair
Erika Helnarski, Alternate

Staff Members Participating:

Stephen Rolle, Division of Planning and Regulatory Services
Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning and Regulatory Services

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was conducted through remote participation. The meeting was livestreamed from the City of Worcester website and via the local cable access channel and is available for streaming online. Public participation was facilitated through a call-in number, 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 1608081191#), which was publicized on the posted meeting agenda and during the video broadcast.

CALL COMMISSION TO ORDER

The Commission was called to order by Chair Mark Wamback at 5:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 3, 2020: On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Stefani did not vote due to his absence at the December 3, 2020 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Demolition Delay Waiver

1. **72 Shrewsbury Street – HC-2020-092 (MBL 01-040-00012)**
Petitioners: David Fields, Wormtown Brewery
Year Built: ca. 1921
Historic Status: MACRIS listed, FKA Worcester Buick Company Showroom
Petition Purpose:
 - Install a sign on the façade
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Brian Glispin of Sunshine Sign Company spoke on behalf of the application. He stated that his company did the same project at Patriots Place. The sign is a Wormtown tap handle. He stated that the sign will not alter architectural details.

Commissioner Wamback asked where the drill holes would be made. Mr. Glispin stated that they would be made into the face of the columns (pilasters).

Commissioner Bloom stated that he feels that the sign design is a bit jarring for the dignified architecture of the building.

Ms. Johnstone stated that the Commission is only looking at whether the drilling of holes into the building, which is the demolition taking place, is detrimental, and that the Commission does not have design review purview.

Commissioner Wamback asked if there were other signs on the building. Mr. Glispin stated that there is.

Commissioner Stefani asked if it would be easy to patch the holes once the sign is removed. Mr. Glispin stated that typically, anchors are ground flush and abandoned. If there is room, a like-color silicone is added to help it blend in.

The Commission viewed photos of another sign presently installed on the building.

No public comment.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 that the proposed demolition at 72 Shrewsbury Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester, and thus approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A. Building Demolition Delay Waiver application, dated and received November 19, 2020.

2. 7 Maxwell Street – HC-2020-093 (MBL 10-003-00009)

Petitioner: Jeffrey Sasseville o/b/o William & Louise Shea

Year Built: ca. 1888

Historic Status: MACRIS listed; State Register of Historic Places; National Register of Historic Places (Individual); National Register Multiple Resource Area, FKA Philip Duke Three-Decker

Petition Purpose:

- Rebuild front porch to existing dimensions and materials

Jeffrey Sasseville spoke in regards to the application. He stated that the building was damaged by a tree and damaged the front porch, siding, windows, corner boards, and gutters. The proposal is to repair and replace the damage.

The Commission did not have comment.

No public comment.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 that the proposed demolition at 7 Maxwell Street would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural resources of the City of Worcester, and thus approved the Building Demolition Delay Waiver.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A: Building Demolition Delay Waiver application dated November 18, 2020 and received November 23, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Notification from MHC of determination of no adverse effect in response to the Project Notification Form (PNF) filed for the proposed renovations to the Worcester Art Museum.

No comment.

- B. Project Notification Form (PNF), submitted to MHC by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and Quinsigamond Community College regarding a proposed addition to the Surprenant Building at Quinsigamond Community College, 670 West Boylston Street, in compliance with MGL Chapter 9, Sections 26–27C.

No comment.

- C. Request from Epsilon Associates for updated letters of support for state tax credit allocations for Ransom F. Taylor Block, 526 Main Street, and the Kane Building, 204 Main Street.

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue updated letters of support.

- D. Request from PAL, Inc., for updated letters of support for state tax credit allocations for the Cheney Ballard Building, 517 Main Street; the Worcester County Courthouse, 2 Main Street; and Mission Chapel, 205 Summer Street.

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue updated letters of support.

- E. Request from MacRostie Historic Advisors for updated letters of support for state tax credit allocations for the following properties:

1. Waldo Street Police Station, District Court & Insurance Fire Patrol Building, 1 Exchange Place
2. Washburn & Moen North Works Cotton Mill, 90 Grove Street
3. J.A. Calvin Lofts, 98 Beacon Street
4. Elwood Adams Block, 156 Main Street
5. Paul Revere Life Insurance Company Building, 18 Chestnut Street
6. Worcester Boys' Club, 2 Ionic Avenue
7. Whitcomb Manufacturing Company Factory, 134 Gold Street
8. Worcester YWCA, 6–10 Chatham Street

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue updated letters of support.

- F. Request from MacRostie Historic Advisors for a new letter of support for state tax credit allocation for the Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street.

Ms. Johnstone briefly described the intent of the project.

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the Commission voted 5-0 to issue updated letters of support.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.