

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
October 4, 2012**

LEVI LINCOLN CHAMBER – CITY HALL

Commission Members Present: Kevin Provencher, Clerk
James Crowley
Andrew Shveda
Meagan Mulherin

Staff Members Present: Nancy Tran, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services
Marlyn Feliciano, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

REGULAR MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER:

Acting Chair Kevin Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 5 Jackson Street (HC-2012-054)

The applicant was not present. Mr. Provencher asked the Commission if they wanted to discuss the item on the agenda or continue to the next meeting.

Mr. Crowley stated that he was comfortable reviewing the application without the applicant present. He also stated that the pictures depicted that the condition was unsafe and that he was comfortable approving the petition to remove and rebuild the existing wood porches on the rear of the building with pressure-treated lumber.

Ms. Mulherin stated that the structure looks unsafe and she was also comfortable approving it.

Upon a motion by Mr. Crowley and seconded by Ms. Mulherin, the Worcester Historical Commission voted 4-0 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 for this project was approved.

List of Exhibits.

Exhibit A: Building Demolition Delay Waiver Application submitted by Goldman Sachs; received August 29, 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2. Certified Local Government Annual Report to Massachusetts Historical Commission for FY12

On behalf of Chairman Constantine, Mr. Provencher signed a cover letter that will accompany the Certified Local Government Annual Report. Ms. Feliciano asked the Commission to vote to accept or amend the report so that it could be submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Mr. Provencher reminded the Commission that this was presented before them on the previous meeting but several members had requested additional time to review it. He asked the Commission if the members had an opportunity to review the report.

There were no comments from the Commission.

Upon a motion by Mr. Crowley and seconded by Mr. Schveda the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the report.

List of Exhibits.

Exhibit A: Certified Local Government Annual Report to Massachusetts Historical Commission for FY12

3. Received Communication

- re: Proposed Telecommunication Installation, First Baptist Church, **111 Park Ave;** from Massachusetts Historical Commission; dated 09/14/212
- No action or comment was made on this communication.

- re: “Believe in Preservation” event; From Preservation Massachusetts; dated 09/27/2012
- Mr. Provencher stated that he was unsure how to respond to this letter because it was the first time since he has been on the Commission that they were being asked to promote or support an event. He asked the Commission what they opined. Mr. Schveda stated he believed that the intention of the communication is for the members to promote the event through their own contacts. Mr. Crowley stated that he believed that Preservation Massachusetts will be taking care of the event and that the Commission would just support it. Mr. Provencher stated that there must be a list or advertisement that will list the partners/supporters of the event and it was up to the Commission to decide if the Worcester Historical Commission should be included. Mr.

Crowley and Mr. Provencher stated they were not familiar with the event. Ms. Mulherin stated that during these events they announce the most endangered historic structures in Massachusetts and the focus is on Central Massachusetts this year.

Mr. Crowley stated the Historical Commission's mission includes the promotion of preservation and education of historical architectural resources so he didn't believe that there was anything wrong with them supporting the event, especially if all they are asking is to lend their name to it. Ms. Mulherin stated she believed it was a positive endorsement.

Upon a motion by Ms. Mulherin and seconded by Mr. Schveda, the Commission voted 4-0 to support the Preservation Massachusetts "Believe in Preservation 2012" event.

- re: Blackstone Canal District Streetscape Improvement Project, MassDOT project Number 606888; from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.; dated 09/20/2012
- Mr. Provencher stated he was unsure what they were being asked to comment on. Ms. Tran stated that what they had in front of them was all the information that was provided. Mr. Schveda stated that the letter asked for comments on the Harding Street portion of the project as depicted on the photomap, from Winter Street to Kelly Square. Mr. Provencher stated that the letter refers to project renderings that they did not receive and doesn't think that the Commission has enough detail to comment on the project. Mr. Provencher requested that VHB be contacted and that they provide the renderings mentioned in their letter.
- re: Fiscal Year 2013 Survey and Planning Grant; from Massachusetts Historical Commission; dated 09/26/2012
- Mr. Provencher stated that it was his understanding that the matching funds for this grant would come from the City Manager. He asked staff to follow up and find out if there is funding available. Mr. Schveda asked if there was an on-going project that would qualify. Ms. Tran stated that there was not. Mr. Provencher explained that in the past the City hires a consultant who would assist in the grant writing process and identify additional properties to be included in the MACRIS list. Mr. Provencher stated that they would support it and wish to pursue it if there was funding available. Ms. Tran stated that she would find out about funds availability.

The Board had no comment on the following communications:

- re: 19 McKeon Rd; from Federal Communications Commission (FCC); dated 09/12/2012
- re: 18 Grafton St; from FCC; dated 09/26/2012

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.