

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

**January 25, 2018**

**LEVI LINCOLN CHAMBER – CITY HALL**

**Commission Members Present:** Andrew Shveda  
Randolph Bloom  
Robyn Conroy  
Mark Wamback  
Devon Kurtz  
Janet Theerman

**Commission Members Absent:** Courtney Ross Escobar, Alternate

**Staff Members Present:** Stephen Rolle, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services  
Susan Arena, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

**Call Commission to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shveda at 5:34 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Review of the January 10, 2018 minutes.

*Upon a motion by Commissioner Wamback and seconded by Commissioner Theerman the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018.*

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**1. Election of officers**

Chair Shveda stated that he had spoken with other officers who are currently serving. All agreed to be nominated to serve for another year, though anyone else is welcome to put forth a nomination for any position.

*Upon a motion by Chair Shveda, and seconded by Commissioner Wamback, the Commission voted 6-0 to elect Robyn Conroy to the position of Clerk.*

*Upon a motion by Chair Shveda, and seconded by Commissioner Kurtz, the Commission voted 6-0 to elect Randolph Bloom to the position of Vice-chair.*

*Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy, and seconded by Commissioner Bloom, the Commission voted 6-0 to elect Andrew Shveda to the position of Chair.*

## **Other Business**

- I. Presentation of request to initiate a Local Historic District study (Mt. Carmel Church and vicinity).

Taken out of order.

Amoret Zamarro addressed the Commission on behalf of the Mount Carmel Preservation Society. She stated that the group is presently working on a number of fronts to preserve the church and have decided this isn't the best time to pursue their request for Local Historic District designation. She noted that their president submitted a statement to the Historical Commission earlier that day regarding their intent (Exhibit D).

Chair Shveda explained that the Commission would be voting on the item and there would be no public comment. He invited representatives from any properties within the proposed district to comment.

Stephen Madaus, legal representative for the Catholic Diocese of Worcester, stated that they are opposed to the request. He stated that the proposed boundaries seemed arbitrary, that there is no connection between the buildings to be included, and that the design appeared only to be a way to differentiate this proposal from the previous one that had been denied. He also cited opposition from other property owners and local organizations. Based on these reasons Mr. Madaus asked that the Commission deny the request. A more in-depth letter addressing these matters was submitted to the Historical Commission (Exhibit G).

Chair Shveda noted that as the petitioners asked that the item not be heard tonight, he felt it's the Commission's responsibility to close out the matter. He stressed that, regardless of the outcome, it does not hinder the petitioner's opportunity to come back at a future date. Commissioner Conroy added that, should the group come forward in the future with another petition, there is more involvement of other property owners and a better presentation. Chair Shveda concluded by saying that he is heartened to hear of the potential for future use and would like to see the building saved.

*Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy, and seconded by Commissioner Theerman the Commission voted 6-0 not to initiate a local historic district study on Mount Carmel Church and vicinity.*

Exhibit A: Comment from Mauro DePasquale, President Mount Carmel Preservation Society, received November 29, 2017.

Exhibit B: Comments and documentation from Mount Carmel Preservation Society, received January 19, 2018.

Exhibit C: Revised comment from Mauro DePasquale, President Mount Carmel Preservation Society, received January 23, 2018.

Exhibit D: Statement from Mauro DePasquale, President Mount Carmel Preservation Society, received January 25, 2018.

Exhibit E: Comment from Preservation Worcester, received January 19, 2018.

Exhibit F: Comment from Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, received January 22, 2018.

Exhibit G: Comment from Mirick O'Connell on behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester, received January 23, 2018.

Exhibit H: Comment from Donald O'Neil, Esq. on behalf of Summer St. Hotel LLC, received January 24, 2018.

Exhibit I: Comment from Foley Industrial Engines, received January 24, 2018.

Exhibit J: Comment from Bowditch and Dewey LLP on behalf of Mr. Keivan Mizrahi, received January 24, 2018.

### **Communications**

- a. Communication from FCC re: Notification of Section 106 filing for CSX, received electronically January 2, 2018.

*No comment.*

- b. Communication from Tetra Tech re: Stormwater improvements along Interstate 20, dated January 3, 2018 and received January 8, 2018.

*No comment.*

- c. \*Request for CLG opinion from MacRostie Historic Advisors re: Lagrange Street District, received electronically January 17, 2018.

*Upon a motion by Chair Shveda and seconded by Commissioner Wamback, the Commission voted 6-0 to find the district to be eligible for the National Register and concur with the opinion of staff.*

*\*Items requiring action*

### **Other Business**

- II. Massachusetts Historical Commission Annual Preservation Awards, nominee discussion.

*Staff will curate a list of potential candidates and circulate with the Commission for discussion at the next meeting.*

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Chair Shveda and seconded by Commissioner Wamback, the Commission voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.