

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER
APRIL 27, 2006
418 MAIN STREET, SUITE 400**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Thomas Conroy, Clerk
Thomas Constantine
Sally Jablonski

Staff Present: Joel Fontane, 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 Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the March 9, 2006 minutes.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jablonski and seconded by Commissioner Constantine, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the March 23, 2006 minutes.

The Commission continued consideration of the April 13, 2006 minutes to the May 11, 2006 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Prioritization of 2006 Goals and Objectives:** Joel Fontane, Director of Planning and Regulatory Services, reviewed points from his previous presentation on April 13, 2006 regarding the 2006 Goals and Objectives for the Commission. He indicated that the Planning and Regulatory Services staff will create a proposed fee schedule that the Historical Commission will be able to review and comment on. Mr. Fontane also discussed the possibility of hosting a training session for Commission members with Chris Skully from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- 2. 17 Southgate Place Demolition:** Mr. Fontane reiterated that there will be a scheduled update on this project on June 8, 2006, unless additional information is available beforehand.

3. **Fire Alarm Telegraph Building** – Chair Schneider requested an update and possibly a tour of the building. Mr. Fontane indicated that staff would request an update and possible tour from the Parks Department.
4. **Massachusetts Trial Court – Gilman Display** – Lara Bold, Planning Analyst, stated that Charles Willse, project manager for the Gilman Display, had received the Commission's letter requesting a meeting and offered some potential dates to meet. The Commission suggested meeting at 418 Main Street in the 4th floor conference room if it was not possible to meet on site after 5:00 pm at the Massachusetts Trial Court. Ms. Bold stated she would keep the Commission updated on potential dates and times to meet and would relay the Commission's preferences to Mr. Willse.
5. **12 Watt Street update** – Ms. Bold indicated that the applicants for 12 Watt Street had decided to repair their slate roof on the front portion of the house instead of replacing it.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

6. **30 Harvard Street (HC-06-06) Building Demolition Permit:** Michael Vartanian, representative for the Lutheran Home, applicant, indicated that the windows on the Gould Mansion at 30 Harvard Street had not been changed in 150 years and that several window panes have already fallen. He also indicated that the Lutheran Home had received a bid from Modern Manufacturing, Inc. to replace 29 windows in existing frames, 2 fixed windows, and one steel door with frame. He stated that the windows would have simulated divided lites to match the existing grid pattern and would be aluminum. Additionally, Mr. Vartanian stated that the outside trim on the windows would not change. Upon a motion by Commissioner Conroy and seconded by Commissioner Jablonski *the Commission found that the proposed demolition of the designated historic building at 30 Harvard 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

7. **335 Main Street:** The Commission discussed the lack of available information on the plan and their role in the project's review. Mr. Fontane indicated that the Commission would be one of several public representatives in the review process for the telecommunications facility under Section 106 of the National Preservation Act. He also explained that the building was probably chosen as a potential site for a telecommunications facility due to several factors, including: location, service area of the telecommunications company, as well as negotiations with various building owners. The Commission discussed whether or not the structure would be properly camouflaged and if it would be visible from Main Street. Upon a motion by Commissioner Constantine and seconded by Commissioner Conroy, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve sending a letter to Omnipoint Communications, Inc. stating that the Commission has no objections to the plan, as presented, provided that the

façade along Main Street will not be altered and that all necessary provisions to camouflage the proposed telecommunications facility will be taken.

- 8. Slate alternative:** Chair Schneider presented a brochure he received, detailing an aluminum slate replacement called Interlock slate. He requested that staff inquire about the cost and request a sample from the company to increase information available to applicants who want to replace their slate roof.

- 9. Worcester State Hospital** – Chair Schneider gave an update on a recent meeting he attended on historic preservation efforts related to the redevelopment of the Worcester State Hospital site. He indicated that the future plans for the hospital do not contain much information about preservation efforts. The Commission agreed they would like to be an advocate for future historic preservation efforts related to Worcester State Hospital. Commissioner Conroy suggested that a potential resource for such efforts would be two Psychology PhD candidates who had done historical research on Worcester State Hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peter Schneider adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.