



City of Somerville  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**5 DECEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

This meeting was conducted via remote participation on Zoom.

NAME	TITLE	STATUS	ARRIVED
Eric Parkes	Chair	<i>Present</i>	
Robin Kelly	Vice Chair	<i>Present</i>	
Ryan Falvey	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Dick Bauer	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Denis (DJ) Chagnon	Alt. Member	<i>Present</i>	
Colin Curzi	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Denise Price	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Dan Coughlin	Member	<i>Absent</i>	

City staff present: Wendy Sczechowicz (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Madison Anthony (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm and adjourned at 8:13pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Determinations of Historic Significance  
(Step 1 in the Demolition Review Process)  
HP23-000035 – 69 Clarendon Avenue**

*It was noted that the applicant was not present at this time. The Commission tabled this item until later in the meeting.*

**OTHER BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes**

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Vice Chair Kelly, the Commission voted (3-0-1) with Member Falvey abstaining, to approve the 17 October 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Determinations of Historic Significance  
(Step 1 in the Demolition Review Process)  
HP23-000035 – 69 Clarendon Avenue**

*The Commission retook this item at this time. It was noted that the applicant was still not present.*

Staff explained that this was originally a working-class home which was occupied from the late 1800s to about the early to mid 1900s. The applicant is now looking to demolish the structure.

Chair Parkes opened public testimony.

Allen Parmelee (70 Clarendon Ave) – stated that there are a number of similar small single-family houses along the street. He asked if demolishing this structure is meant to return it to its original appearance.

Elizabeth Lovance (72 Clarendon Ave) – expressed concern regarding this proposal and the nature of the neighborhood. All of the houses were built at the same time as lower/middle working-class housing. She asked if the structure has historic neighborhood significance, as the building façades have been preserved, even though the houses have changed over time. She would like to make sure the character of the neighborhood and the lot are preserved.

Alexis Washburn (76 Clarendon Ave) – asked what would be allowed to be constructed on the site if the demolition is allowed. She asked how this might change the streetscape and the character of the neighborhood.

Seeing no additional comments, Chair Parkes closed public testimony.

The Commission noted that the applicant could likely place a triple decker building on this property, per the current zoning. Staff explained that the Commission only has purview at this time over the demolition of the building, and declaring whether or not it is Historically Significant based off its architecture and those who live there. If it is declared Preferably Preserved there may be additional consideration given as to what could be built on the site.

The Commission noted that there is importance to preserving worker’s cottages in the City. The connection of this building to the overall streetscape is key. This is a cluster of buildings with an overall identity. There is some continuity to the massing of the existing structures.

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Vice Chair Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to find the property at 69 Clarendon Avenue Historically Significant.

The Commission reviewed the following Findings:

- The building contributes to the streetscape, as part of a grouping of identical buildings.
- The building largely retains its original form and massing.
- The building is easily identified as akin to a number of properties built at the same time period.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adopt the findings, as discussed.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT</b>
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### **OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update**

Chair Parkes stated that the CPC continues to review applications for the next funding round.

*NOTICE: These minutes constitute a summary of the votes and key discussions at this meeting. To review a full recording, please contact the Planning, Preservation & Zoning Division at [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).*