



City of Somerville

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

Eric Parkes

*Chair*

Robin Kelly

*Vice-Chair*

Dick Bauer

Ryan Falvey

Colin Curzi

Denise Price

DJ Chagnon, *Alt.*

**ADDRESS:** 59 Cross Street

**CASE:** HPC.ALT 2023.21

**APPLICANT:** John Hecker for Spencer Preservation Group, 41 Valley Rd, Suite 211B, Nahant, MA 01908

**OWNER:** Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development, 59 Cross St, Somerville, MA 02145

**DETERMINATION:** *Conditional* **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS (CA)**

**DECISION DATE:** July 18, 2023

This decision summarizes the findings made by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) or their designee regarding the proposal to ***alter an existing structure*** as submitted for the Local Historic District (LHD) property at **59 Cross Street**.

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

- a. Alterations to hardscape
  - Demolish existing sidewalk from Cross Street to existing north entry at basement.
  - Provide a new accessible ramp from the Cross Street sidewalk to a modified north side entry.
  - Demolish existing north retaining wall along abutting property.
- b. Provide exterior steel and glass canopy over new accessible basement entrance on the right elevation.
- c. Alterations to windows and doors
  - Relocate and rehabilitate existing basement door and doorframe at right basement entry.
  - Replace large arched window on the front elevation of the tower
- d. Installation of elevator penthouse on roof

## DETERMINATION

The applicable portions of the *Design Guidelines* are **C. “Windows and Doors”**, **F. “Penthouses and other rooftop additions”**, **G. “Signs, marquees and awnings”**, and **H. “Landscape Features and Paving”**,

The HPC voted 4-0 to conditionally approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the above listed alterations.

93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143  
(617)-625-6600 ext.2500  
[www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov)  
[historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov)

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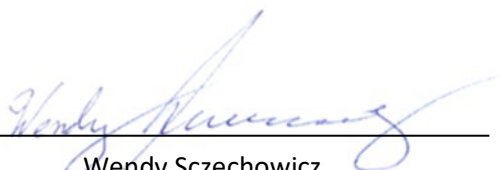
The HPC then voted 4-0 to grant a **CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS (CA)**.

The following conditions apply. Failure to comply with this Certificate and the conditions added thereto may result in delays to final sign-offs, removal of incongruous/inappropriate materials or incongruously/inappropriately-designed replacement features, CO, or other changes/ delays.

### CONDITIONS

1. The Applicant/Owner shall file the Certificate with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) by uploading it to the CitizenServe permitting portal with their application for zoning compliance/building permit.
2. This Certificate is valid for one year. If work has not commenced within one year of the HPC's date of determination, this Certificate shall expire, and the Applicant shall re-apply for re-issuance of this Certificate. Provided that no changes have been made to the proposal, this shall be a Staff-level re-issuance of the Certificate.
3. The interior of the glass on the windows that are being blocked out by the elevator hoist way shall not be painted, but instead the PMU wall of the hoist way shall be painted a dark color.
4. Any changes to this proposal made prior to the commencement of work or in-the-field changes shall be submitted to Preservation Planning for their review to determine if the changes come under the purview of the HPC.
5. A written narrative or descriptive checklist identifying the completion or compliance with permit conditions must be submitted to the Inspectional Services Department with a copy to preservation Planning at least fifteen (15) business days in advance of a request for a final inspection.
6. The Applicant shall contact Preservation Planning at [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) a minimum of fifteen (15) business days prior to final ISD walk-through so that Preservation Planning or their designee can confirm if the project was completed according to HPC approvals.

Submitted:

  
Wendy Sczechowicz  
Preservation Planner, Zoning & Preservation

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