



City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

4 JUNE 2024 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>Absent</i>	
Dick Bauer	Member	<i>Present</i>	<i>Arrived at 7:02pm</i>
Denis (DJ) Chagnon	Alt. Member	<i>Present</i>	
Denise Price	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Dan Coughlin	Member	<i>Absent</i>	

City staff present: Wendy Sczechowicz (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Sarah White (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:48pm and adjourned at 7:38pm.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)
326-328 Lowell Street

The Commission discussed what is proposed between the two buildings; Staff noted that those are parking spaces. The applicant team explained that the driveway and parking are proposed to be as pervious as possible, leading to a combination of grass and pervious pavers, with a pea stone parking area.

The Commission stated that the proposed architecture captures much of the feel of the original building. The side gable exposure to the street has been preserved. There was discussion regarding the front of the building not looking balanced, and a little top heavy. The applicant team explained that this is due to fitting items within the attic space and marrying up different floor heights.

The Commission stated that they would like the floor-to-floor height to be reduced if possible.

Member Bauer joined the meeting at 7:02pm.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted (4-0-1), with Member Bauer abstaining, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement.

RESULT:

APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARING:
Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties
HP24-000032 – 57 Columbus Avenue

Vice Chair Kelly recused herself from this item.

The applicant team explained that the front stoop has been redesigned in wood with newels and balusters. This language was also used for the roof deck in the rear over the mudroom. Originally, there was a proposal to remove the rear chimney, but this is now proposed to be rebuilt instead.

There was discussion regarding the two chimneys, one faux, on the property and getting them to match them closely by using the existing bricks as a template for the faux chimney.

Chair Parkes opened public testimony. Seeing none, Chair Parkes closed public testimony.

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Member Price, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0), to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the changes as proposed in the documents received.

RESULT:

APPROVED

OTHER BUSINESS: Commission Elections

Following a motion by Member Bauer, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted (4-0-1), with Chair Parkes abstaining, to nominate Eric Parkes as Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Following a motion by Member Bauer, seconded by Member Price, the Commission voted (4-0-1), with Vice Chair Kelly abstaining, to nominate Robin Kelly as Vice Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Chair Parkes, the Commission voted (4-0-1), with Member Chagnon abstaining, to nominate DJ Chagnon as Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted (4-0-1), with Member Bauer abstaining, to approve the 16 April 2024 and 7 May 2024 meeting minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update

Chair Parkes explained that the CPC is trying to focus on outreach at this time.

The Commission agreed to discuss the proposal to advance the Union Square Historic District, and districting in general at the next meeting.

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 historic@somervillema.gov.