



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

3 SEPTEMBER 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>Present</i>	
Dick Bauer	Member	<i>Absent</i>	
Denis (DJ) Chagnon	Alt. Member	<i>Present</i>	
Denise Price	Member	<i>Present</i>	
Dan Coughlin	Member	<i>Present</i>	

City staff present: Sarah White (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Madison Anthony (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:48pm and adjourned at 7:02pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Determinations of Preferably Preserved (Step 2 in the Demolition Review Process)
HP24-000059 – 80 Curtis Street

The applicant team stated that they learned that this structure is more historic than they previously believed.

Chair Parkes opened public testimony.

Mary D'Aurora – the house should not be torn down. Her concern is that demolishing this historic house in a high valued area of West Somerville will devalue surrounding properties. This is a concern for many neighbors.

Seeing no additional comments, Chair Parkes closed the public testimony.

The Commission discussed the overall impact that removing the expansive lawn would have regarding the relation to the streetscape. The relationship of how the structure sits on the lot, and the relationship to the rest of the streetscape may have an impact on the neighborhood if removed. There are no extenuating circumstances that would lead to recommending demolition of the building, and its loss would be detrimental to the city. This is a unique structure. The lawn is amazing and losing it would change the feel of the neighborhood. There was agreement that it should be Preferably Preserved.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to find the property at 80 Curtis Street Preferably Preserved.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt the following findings:

- The design of the structure is unique with a distinct form within the city
- The structure is similarly aged to those around it, but one of a kind structurally
- The siting within the lot is unique, including the large, expansive front lawn, and these have an impact on the surrounding feel of the neighborhood

- The structure retains its historic integrity, and the form and massing remain substantially unchanged.

RESULT:	PREFERABLY PRESERVED
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OTHER BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Member Falvey, the Commission voted (5-0-1) with Member Chagnon abstaining, to approve the meeting minutes of 6 August 2024, as amended.

OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update

It was noted that there was no CPC meeting this month and so there is no update at this time.

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.