



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

17 DECEMBER 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: Madison Anthony (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Lexie Payne (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:47pm and adjourned at 7:36pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
Determinations of Historic Significance (Step 1 in the Demolition Review Process)
HP24-0000104 – 42 Vinal Avenue

Chair Parkes recused himself from this item. Vice Chair Kelly sat as Acting Chair.

The applicant team explained that the corrected memo submitted by Staff is clear. The structure the applicant is seeking to demolish is the accessory storage shed structure in the rear northwest side of the property; no other structure is proposed to be removed. The accessory structure to be demolished is not very visible from the street, is in poor condition, and is not original to the site. The Historically Significant house remains, and this accessory structure is not significant. Nothing about the history of the site hinges on this particular accessory structure, which was built after the main house. The view of the property from the public way will not change.

Vice Chair Kelly opened public testimony. Seeing no comments, Vice Chair Kelly closed public testimony.

The Commission discussed that this structure does not have much architectural merit and that the City and its residents will not be harmed by its removal.

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Member Falvey, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0), to find the accessory shed in the northwest corner of the site Not Historically Significant.

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Member Coughlin, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0), to adopt the following findings:

- The building appears to retain much of its original form and massing but has no historical or architectural significance.
- The building has no impact on the streetscape.

RESULT:

NOT HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Chair Parkes retook his seat.

OTHER BUSINESS: Membership Terms

Staff explained that Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) recently highlighted changes made to the membership terms for City boards and commissions. Starting in January 2025, the reappointment process will be changed. If someone has served for less than two full terms, that person will be asked to indicate their interest in continuing to serve, and will probably be reappointed, at the discretion of the Mayor. If someone has already served two full terms, Staff will send out a call for applications advertised to the community, and that person will be welcome to reapply and will be considered during the new application process. Priority will be given to new members of the community as long as they meet the criteria.

The Commission asked about the process for a board/commission that has struggled to obtain a full number of members. There was agreement to meet with IGA Staff in order to discuss this further.

OTHER BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted (5-0-1), with Member Falvey abstaining, to approve the 19 November 2024 meeting minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update

The Commission noted that the CPC recently voted on projects to fund and briefly discussed the projects.

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.