



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

16 SEPTEMBER 2025 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>Absent</i>	

City staff present: Madison Anthony (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Alvaro Esparza (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning); Kit Luster (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:49pm and adjourned at 7:07pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – ALTERATIONS TO LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (LHD) PROPERTIES
HP25-000057 – 53 Columbus Avenue

It was noted that the applicant has requested a continuance to 18 November 2025.

RESULT:

CONTINUED

PUBLIC HEARINGS – DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
(STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)
HP25-000056 – 10 Sargent Avenue

The applicant team explained that the prospective buyers of the home reviewed the current location and condition of the structure, along with some of its characteristics based on age and would prefer to demolish the existing structure and build new units to meet the housing needs of Somerville. The applicant team stated that there does not seem to be much of the original structure that remains significant today. The windows and doors have been replaced. There have also been other alterations, such as removal of the original door canopy. The original shell of the structure remains, but this may not be significant. The structure was historically owned by a treasurer of the City. The request is to deem the structure Not Historically Significant. The concrete block garage in the back of the property will also be applied for demolition in the future to create more housing.

Chair Parkes opened public testimony. Seeing no comments, Chair Parkes closed public testimony.

The Commission stated that the Staff Memo presents this structure as one of the less impressive ones in terms of retention of details. It is not as noteworthy as some of its neighboring structures. The house has been stripped of much of its original detail but retains much of its original form and massing. However, it is one of a large group of similar properties which creates a rhythm of the streetscape and speaks to the pattern of development of worker housing in this area at the time. Without the structure, the rhythm of the streetscape will be impacted. There was agreement that this structure should be considered Historically Significant.

The applicant team noted that directly across the street from this house, there is more of a Victorian-structure which breaks up the streetscape already. It does not seem to be out of the question to renovate this dilapidated property.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to find the property Historically Significant.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following findings:

- The property's style with relation to the streetscape is important.
- The property retains much of its original form and massing.

RESULT:	HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
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OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update

The CPC has not met recently. There will be a kick-off meeting on Friday of this week with the historic consultant who was hired.

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.