



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

6 JANUARY 2026 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> | |

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm and adjourned at 7:27pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: ALTERATIONS TO LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (LHD) PROPERTIES

HP25-000022 – 46 Mount Vernon Street

(continued from 21 October 2025)

The applicant team explained that, based on feedback from the previous hearing, they worked on how to make the stairs less prominent and less visible from the right of way. Ultimately, it was determined that there are only two places to put the stairs, given the dimensions of the lot, in the front or in the back of the building. The determination was made to place them on the back end of the porch. This will serve as a second means of egress for the second unit. The deck has been reduced by approximately 3' and the stairs were moved to the rear of the deck.

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

The Commission discussed that the design seems more streamlined from the previous version. The stairs no longer project as far from the existing bay. This places the stairs far enough back that they will not be noticeable.

The Commission asked about the materiality for the project. The applicant team stated that an all-wood deck, stained to match the house is proposed. Wood is also proposed for the railing spindles.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Falvey, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the alterations as updated in the plans provided by the applicant team, including that the materials be all-wood, with square cut balusters.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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PUBLIC HEARINGS: ALTERATIONS TO LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (LHD) PROPERTIES

HP25-000090 – 25 Atherton Street

The applicant team explained that the Carr Schoolhouse Condominium Trust proposes to enhance the quality of life for residents and the beauty of the historic building as it presents to Atherton Street. The proposal is to install a

low-curved stone decorative wall, less than 15" at its highest point, centered on and acknowledging the existing arched side building entrance, with two 10'x14' bluestone patios on either side to be planted with shrubs. None of the mature existing plantings will be impacted. It is approximately 32' from the building to the street, and approximately 120' from the walkway edge to the property line on the other side.

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

The Commission stated that the material choices fit in well with the landscape and keep the focus on the building. The Commission asked about the grade change on the front lawn. The applicant team stated that the grade rolls from the building to Atherton Street. The center of the curve is 15" and the rest of the grade is lower than that. The Commission asked about accessibility to the proposed patios and noted that having them closer to the grade of the walkway will help. The proposal will help enhance enjoyment of the space for residents, and the visual impact from the public way will be minimal.

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Falvey, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the project as outlined in the Staff Memo.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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OTHER BUSINESS: CPC Update

The CPC has been voting on which project applications to fund and will continue to do so next month.

OTHER BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Vice Chair Kelly, seconded by Member Chagnon, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the 18 November 2025 meeting minutes, as presented.

Following a motion by Member Chagnon, seconded by Vice Chair Kelly, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the 2 December 2025 meeting minutes, as presented.

NOTICE: These minutes constitute a summary of the votes and key discussions at this meeting. A recording of these proceedings can be found online here: [Agendas, Minutes, & More](#).