



City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Tufts Administration Building, Suite 211, 167 Holland Street, Somerville MA 02144

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS 2026 JUN -4 P 6:52

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 158 Central Street
PERMIT NUMBER: HP26-000024
OWNER: Michael Pettit and Nicole Black
OWNER ADDRESS: 158 Central St. Somerville, MA 02145
APPLICANT: Michael Pettit
APPLICANT ADDRESS: 158 Central St. Somerville, MA 02145
DECISION: Conditional Certificate of Appropriateness
DECISION ISSUED: June 4, 2026

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

This decision summarizes the findings made by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) or their designee regarding the Local Historic District property at 158 Central Street.

SCOPE OF WORK

- To add a shed to the backyard/side yard of the property, visible from the street.

DETERMINATION

Under the Somerville Historic Districts Ordinance (HDO) proposed alterations of Local Historic District (LHD) properties must conform to specific criteria set out in the *Design Guidelines*. In the instance of **158 Central Street**, the proposal meets the following criteria set out in *Design Guideline Section II, Specific Guidelines items 1 & 3 of E. New Additions* which read(s) as follows:

1. *New additions should not disrupt the essential form and integrity of the property and should be compatible in size, scale, material and character of the property and its environment. Where possible, new additions should be confined to the rear of the house.*
3. *New additions or alterations should be done in a way that, if they were to be removed in the future, the basic form and integrity of the historic property would remain intact.*

At the HPC meeting on June 2, 2026, sitting and present members were Chair Eric Parkes, Vice-Chair Robin Kelly, Members Denise Price and Ryan Falvey, and Alternate Member DJ Chagnon. The applicant explained that the proposal is to build a 120-foot shed behind the driveway for storage, and the design intention was to match the streetscape of the neighborhood. The Commission discussed the decorative cupola on top of the shed and questioned its necessity and ornamental versus functional purposes. After discussion about the Gambrel roof style and concerns about the cupola drawing attention, the commission voted to approve the alteration with the removal of the cupola. Following this discussion the HPC voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the application.

Due to the description of the work and the materials submitted by the Applicant, and the provisions set forth in the Historic District Ordinance (HDO) and related Design Guidelines, the Applicant is granted a **Conditional Certificate of Appropriateness**.

The Conditions attached to this Certificate are as follows and must be followed by the Applicant/Owner.

CONDITIONS:

1. The Applicant shall obtain all necessary permits for this project through the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and must attach this Certificate to any other such permit applications.
2. This Certificate is for the above-described work only. Any changes to this proposal must be requested by submitting a new application to Citizenserve for a Historic Alteration.

3. Approved work must commence within one year of issuance of this Certificate. If work does not commence within one year, the Applicant/Owner is required to submit an application for a Historic Alteration through Citizenserve and request that the Certificate be re-issued.

Issued on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):



Eric Parkes, Chair

Dick Bauer

Ryan Falvey

Robin Kelly, *Vice-Chair*

Denise Price

DJ Chagnon, *Alt.*