HOLYOKE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.
(MEETING IS BEING RECORDED)

Historical Commission
Richard Ahlstrom……. Chairman
Alexandra Puffer………. Secretary
Paola Ferrario………… Member
Frances Welson………. Member
Joe Paul…………………. Member
James Sheehan………. Member

Others present: Glen Sullivan (1050 Hampden Street)

1. **Call to order**
   Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., noting that the meeting was being recorded.
   All were in Favor.

2. **REVIEW OF 7-9-18 Minutes**
   Alexandra Puffer made a motion to approve the minutes for July 9, 2018 and was seconded by Joe Paul.
   All were in favor.

3. **Public Participation**
   Glen Sullivan asked the board if they would comment about the Lynch School Project. Richard Ahlstrom stated that there will be discussion regarding Lynch school under New Business.

4. **Marcos Marrero**
   a. **Archeological research Depot Hill**
      Marcos Marrero stated that the City received a letter by an expert stating that there may be an archeological Site on Depot Hill. The question is how do we know that this is true. Mr. Marrero stated that he reached out to the Archeological Department via UMass for some Technical Assistance that they can provide for a low cost. The Commissioners asked if the Historical Commission has any legal responsibility. Mr. Marrero replied that we do not have a legal responsibility but we have a moral responsibility. Paola Ferrario stated that the first thing that should be done is to bring a Native American Scholar to check on this site, so that we proceed ethically. There has been previous discussion regarding this site this past summer. At that meeting the Commissioners determined that there are gaps in State rules which allows for Universities or any other entities to keep what they find. The commissioners agreed that they would like to do more research regarding this issue. Frances Welson will research the bylaws and get more information to allow for more discussion on moving forward with this site.

   b. **Bylaws Revision**
      Marcos Marrero stated that he has been working with all of his boards to make sure that there is uniformity in operating procedures and to provide clarity to these procedures. Mr. Marrero added that all of the boards are independent from the Office of Planning & Development. Mr. Marrero noted that office staff provide administration to Boards and in no way make decisions for the Commissioners. A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Joe Paul to approve the Bylaws. All were in Favor.

   c. **123 Pine Street & Armory expressions of interest**
      Marcos Marrero stated that there are expressions of interest for both 123 pine Street and the Armory. Mr. Marrero added that both properties have good bones, but are not in good shape, so both buildings would need to be rehabilitated by the purchaser.
5. **Old business:**
a. **Mater dolorosa**
   Richard Ahlstrom stated that he received a call from Rory Casey in the Mayor’s office to let the Historical Commission know that the Diocese will be demolishing Mater Dolorosa. There was discussion with other groups regarding the purchase of Mater Dolorosa, but the parties involved could not come to terms.

b. **Richardson Train Station**
   At the last meeting there was discussion that HG& E was thinking about rehabbing the train station and using it. There has been no new information regarding the Train Station. Richard Ahlstrom will contact HG& E and arrange for a walkthrough of the building.

c. **Outreach**
   There will be discussion at next month’s meeting.

d. **Grant Opportunities**
   Debbie Opperman stated that a Letter of Intent for the MA Historical Commission’s Survey and Planning grant are due at the end of November and need to be discussed soon if the Commission is going to apply for this grant. The commissioners asked to discuss this at Octobers Meeting.

6. **New Business**
a. **Canal Walks at Heritage State Park** - Nothing new to report.

b. **Historical photographs** - Debbie Opperman shared with the Commissioner’s historic photos that were sent to her by a woman in East Longmeadow.

c. **Winn Development** - Debbie Opperman stated that the Office of Planning & Development received acknowledgement from the Massachusetts Historical Commission on July 26, 2018 that Far Alpaca Mill received an award in the second round of tax credits in the amount of $400,000.00.

d. **120 Walnut Street** - Richard Ahlstrom stated that 120 Walnut Street has been demolished in the last month.

e. **Lynch School** - Richard Ahlstrom asked if the Commission would like to put forth a letter of support for pursuing salvaging the Lynch building. A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Alexandria Puffer to delegate staff to write a letter of support for the preservation of the Lynch school and delegate the Chair to approve it.

7. **Next Meeting - October 8, 2018**

8. **Adjourn**
   With no other business a motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Joe Paul to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The decision was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bou, Head Clerk OPED