

Chicopee Historical Commission Voting Record and Minutes

The Historical Commission of the City of Chicopee public hearing for **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 4:00 PM**, in the Chambers Conference room, City Hall Annex and via Zoom.

Meeting was brought to order at 4:02 PM by Joshua Clark, Chair of the Historical Commission.

Historical Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Joshua Clark, Chair	X		
Linda Menard-Mruk Vice Chair	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		
Dave Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner, Clerk	X		

Planning Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director	At 4:30 PM		
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nathan Moreau, Assoc. Planner			X

ITEM 1: Support Letter – Polish Home - Matthew Roman attended the Commission’s November 9, 2021 meeting and indicated it was his desire to apply for historic tax credits for proposed work at the Polish Home on Grove Street. Mr. Roman has requested a letter of support from the Commission for the following work on the building: Installation of a fire alarm system, installation of an elevator to allow for senior citizens and handicapped to access the second floor hall, roof repairs, repairs to exterior wall flashings, and repairs to the chimney. Mr. Roman was not in attendance for the meeting therefore the Commission voted to table discussion and voting on a support letter to February 8, 2022

Notes: Matthew Roman from the Polish Home Association, through the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, was seeking Historic Tax Credit funds for the rehabilitation of the Polish Home facility. The building needs an alarm system, new siding, and an elevator. The Commissioners tabled action on this item from January 11, 2022 to February 8, 2022 as they had questions for Mr. Roman and he was not in attendance at the January meeting. The Commission requested

information on plans for the building, costs for the upkeep and how the building got to its current state. New building code and fire regulations require the upgrades.

Motion to approve the letter of support was made by Louise Osetek, and seconded by Raymond Hoess-Brooks. Vote was 6-0 to approve the letter of support.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Vice Chair	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Timothy Wagner	X			

ITEM 2: Presentation by Silverbrick to update the Commission on the Cabotville Mill Project – Silverbrick is requesting a new letter of support letter from the Commission. The last letter of support was issued October 12, 2021.

Notes: The Commissioners discussed their concerns regarding the economic feasibility of the Cabotville Mill Project. The Commission noted the City Council also had concerns about the project based on media reports regarding Silverbrick Properties. Aaron Papowitz of Silverbrick provided an update on the project to the Commission. Mr. Papowitz again stated rising construction costs have reached unprecedented levels and plumbing alone would couse in excess of one million USD. Mr. Papowitz has stated the project is not currently economically viable but that continued funding is essential. Building/life safety systems need to be updated. Commissioner Joshua Clark noted that no new information had been provided by Silverbrick in several months and he was wondering if the property was going to be sold soon. Mr. Papowitz stated he provided a list of funding sources that have been sought. Historic Tax Credits do not expire and the project has acquired \$2.3 million in tax credits to date. Staff indicated that denying the letter of support may be detrimental in the long term.

Motion to approve the letter of support was made by Linda Menard-Mruk but was never seconded.

Motion to deny the letter of support was made by Raymond Hoess-Brooks, and seconded by Timothy Wagner. Vote was 4 to deny, 2 to approve. The letter of support was denied.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Vice Chair	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks		X		
Dave Robison		X		
Louise Osetek		X		
Timothy Wagner		X		

ITEM 3: Bellamy House Presentation – Update on the status of the Edward Bellamy House and necessary repairs.

Notes: Jason Amo provided a presentation on the status of the Edward Bellamy House, currently a museum in the City of Chicopee. The Edward Bellamy Association would like it to be a museum dedicated to the history of Chicopee. ARPA funding is not available to the organization but other funding sources are being sought and the Association is working with the City.

ITEM 4: Discussion/New Business

Notes: There was no discussion.

ITEM 5: Minutes from January 11, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Menard-Mruk and seconded by Louise Osetek. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Vice Chair	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Timothy Wagner	X			

ITEM 6: Adjournment - Next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2022

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Robison and seconded by Louise Osetek. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Vice Chair	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Timothy Wagner	X			

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM