

Chicopee Historical Commission Voting Record and Minutes

The Historical Commission of the City of Chicopee public hearing for **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM**, in the Chambers Conference room, City Hall Annex and via Zoom.

Meeting was brought to order at 4:00 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
Kathryn Gawron	X		

Planning Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director	X		
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		

Item 1: **Presentation by Valley Opportunity Council** on the redevelopment of the former Belcher School into 20-25 apartments. VOC is requesting a new letter of support from the Commission. The last letter of support was issued in December of 2022.

Notes: Steven Huntley and Alex Jansen of the Valley opportunity Council (VOC) presented an update on the project and provided the Commission with the latest funding report. To date \$1.48 million in historic tax credits have been awarded to VOC for the project. VOC continues to seek sources of funding for the project. VOC anticipates going to bid on the project soon and is hoping for 4-5 bids on the project. VOC hopes to break ground later in 2023.

Motion to approve a letter of support was made by Dave Robison and seconded by Louise Osetek. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark, Chair	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Kathryn Gawron	X			

Item 2: Presentation by Charles Crook on J. Stevens & CO. and J. Stevens Arms & Tool CO. – discussion of commemorative plaque.

Notes: Mr. Crook was unable to attend the meeting to present his topic. He will ask to be placed on an agenda at a later date.

Item 3: Discussion regarding the closing of Holy Name of Jesus Parish; Historical Commission response; and what does the future hold for the building/complex. Minutes from March 10, 2020 meeting regarding Holy Name of Jesus.

Notes: The Commission briefly discussed the situation with Holy Name of Jesus Parish. There is concern about the historical property being demolished. Joshua Clark reminded the Commission about the Commission’s bylaws and the preservation of historic buildings. He posed the question to the Commission asking how the Commission can address the situation. Mr. Clark noted he was working on a letter to the Bishop of the diocese with hope of being able to have a conversation with someone from the diocese regarding plans for the Holy Name of Jesus campus. The Commission agreed to gather information and discuss again at the May 9, 2023 meeting with the possibility of inviting someone from the diocese to speak at the June Commission meeting.

Item 4: Minutes from January 10, 2023

Motion to approve was made by Louise Osetek and seconded by Dave Robison. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark, Chair	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Kathryn Gawron	X			

Item 5: Discussion/New Business – No discussion or new business to report.

Item 6: Adjournment – Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 9, 2023.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Robison and seconded by Louise Osetek. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark, Chair	X			
Dave Robison	X			
Louise Osetek	X			
Kathryn Gawron	X			

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.