

## MEETING MINUTES

### MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 10, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Commission meeting was held remotely in a Zoom meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

Chairman Rosenberry called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. On behalf of Secretary Galvin, he welcomed the Commissioners. Chairman Rosenberry next addressed the visitors, thanking them for attending. For those individuals who may not have attended commission meetings in the past, Chairman Rosenberry explained the structure of the meeting and when in the process the visitors could address the commission.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the first item on the agenda, the **Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) Grants, Round 26.**

The chairman first called for any recusals. Commissioner Wilson said he would recuse himself for discussion and voting on the **Naumkeag/Trustees of Reservations in Stockbridge.**

Commissioner Sullivan said he would recuse himself for discussion and voting on the **Abraham Browne House – Barn/Historic New England in Watertown.**

The chairman then recognized Paul Holtz, Co-Director of the Grants Division. Mr. Holtz distributed a spreadsheet with information on each recommended project, a copy of which is on file with these minutes. He thanked Commissioners DeWitt, Pride, and McDowell for serving as the grants subcommittee prior to the meeting. He then gave an overview of MPPF Round 26, saying that MHC received 33 total applications: 29 for development projects; 4 for pre-development projects; 13 applications were from municipalities, and 20 from nonprofits and 0 Acquisitions. Mr. Holtz said MHC staff recommended 20 projects for MPPF grants. He then gave a short presentation on each of the recommended projects. Commissioner DeWitt provided a brief summary of the MPPF grants subcommittee meeting.

Chairman Rosenberry thanked Mr. Holtz, and then began the voting process as follows:

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **First Baptist Church/First Baptist Church of Boston in Boston (Back Bay).** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Kleespies and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Frederick Ayer Mansion/ Campaign to Restore Ayer Mansion in Boston (Back Bay).** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church/All Souls Church in**

**Braintree.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$12,500** to **Ireland Street Cemetery/Town in Chesterfield.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Kleespies. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$8,000** to **Heath Old Town House/Heath Historical Society in Heath.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Cosco and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Holyoke City Hall/City of Holyoke in Holyoke.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner Kleespies. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$55,000** to the **Bancroft Memorial Library/Town of Hopedale in Hopedale.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$47,000** to the **Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Cosco and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$35,000** to the **Monson Unitarian Universalist Church in Monson.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$10,000** to **Norfolk Grange Hall/Norfolk Grange #135 Patrons of Husbandry in Norfolk.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Kleespies and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to **Smith Charities Building/Smith Charities in Northampton.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$12,500** to **Raymond School/Town of Royalston in Royalston**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Nathaniel Bowditch House/Historic Salem, Inc. in Salem**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Kleespies and SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Salem Common Fence/City of Salem in Salem**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$30,000** to the **Springfield Municipal Complex/City of Springfield in Springfield**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this point Commissioner Wilson recused himself and left the meeting. Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Naumkeag/Trustees of Reservations in Stockbridge**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Cosco and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED with one recusal and thirteen in favor. Commissioner Wilson returned back to the meeting.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$55,000** to the **Littlefield Library/Town of Tyngsborough in Tyngsborough**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$30,000** to the **Coronet John Farnum House/Town of Uxbridge in Uxbridge**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this point Commissioner Sullivan recused himself and left the meeting. Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Abraham Browne House – Barn/Historic New England in Watertown**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner Cosco. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the

motion. The motion CARRIED with one recusal and thirteen in favor. Commissioner Sullivan returned back to the meeting.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$55,000** to the **Webster Municipal Building/ Town of Webster in Webster**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the National Register nominations, and called for any recusals. Hearing none, he turned the meeting over to the Director of the National Register Program, Betsy Friedberg, who began the National Register presentations.

The first nomination presented was for the **Malcolm X – Ella Little Collins House in Boston**. The applicant is the Boston Landmarks Commission with property owners Annie and Rodnell Collins and the Collins family; nomination prepared under a Survey & Planning grant, with PAL as the consultants. Ms. Friedberg presented the nomination.

The Malcolm X-Ella Collins Little House is located at 72 Dale Street in Roxbury. Built ca. 1865, it is set with its gable end to the street, at the front of a narrow lot.

The house is a good but restrained example of a side-hall-plan Italianate-style house, a popular style at the time of its construction. The house has been continuously owned by the Collins family since the 1940s.

The house is primarily significant as the only remaining residence associated with nationally significant human rights activist Malcolm X (Malcolm Little) during his formative years. It is where he came as a young teenager to live with his older sister Ella Little Collins, who was 11 years older than he was.

Ella bought this house in 1941 and became her brother's legal guardian in that year. He lived here sporadically between 1941 and 1944, using rooms on the third floor that Ella fixed up for him, making changes that remain today, such as the bookshelves. Malcolm later said that "no physical move in my life has been more pivotal or profound in its repercussions," and the house and his relationship with his sister Ella remained a touchstone and focus of his life for many years. At this house, the Littles may have had their first exposure to Islam through their neighbors, the Perry's.

Although he dropped out of school, Ella encouraged Malcolm to find jobs, and he worked as a shoeshine boy, parking lot attendant, soda jerk, and then as a Pullman porter. From Ella, Malcolm learned stories of his family's history, beginning in Africa and continuing through slavery and emancipation, about the value of history, and about the need for self-sufficiency and supporting one another to counter white supremacy—these stories and values would become central to his ideology.

At the same time, Malcolm was also getting involved in illicit activities. He left the house in 1944 and spent much of the next 12 years in Massachusetts prisons after conviction on larceny charges. His sister Ella visited him frequently while he was in prison and encouraged him to educate himself there. While in prison, he joined the Nation of Islam and soon after, he took on the name Malcolm X. Ella also provided financial support throughout his life.

The property also holds important associations with Ella Little Collins herself, who was locally significant in her own right as an organizer in the Civil Rights movement and proponent of human rights, in her efforts to improve educational opportunities for black students in Boston and NY, and as a

businesswoman and real estate investor. After Malcolm X's assassination in NYC in 1965, Ella never returned to the house on Dale Street. She died in 1996.

The property also has associations with the development of Roxbury as a streetcar suburb of Boston and later as a prominent black neighborhood, and also holds potential to reveal additional information in the future. Recently, it has been the subject of archaeological investigations by the City of Boston Archaeology Program that found evidence of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead that had been here prior to the construction of this house in 1865; in addition, they found evidence of the 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation by Ella Little Collins and her family. Among the more recent artifacts were a vinyl record from 1959, a piece of horn-rimmed glasses, part of a red plastic toy car, and a button from one of Ella's sweaters.

In recent decades, the house has suffered from some deferred maintenance. A grant from Historic Boston Inc. allowed for the installation of a temporary rubber membrane roof. It is hoped that National Register designation will aid in its continued preservation.

The next nomination presented was for the **Malden City Infirmiry in Malden**. The applicant is the Volunteers of America, the property owner, with Epsilon Associates, preservation consultants. Ms. Friedberg presented the nomination. MHC received a letter of support from Mayor Gary Christenson.

The Malden City Infirmiry is located on the east side of Forest Street, in the northern part of the city of Malden.

The complex is comprised of four connected buildings constructed between 1871 and 2016: these include the 1871 Almshouse, later known as the Warden's House, the ca. 1918 Colonial Revival-style Sunroom, the 1930 Colonial Revival-style, U-shaped City Infirmiry, and the noncontributing 2016 addition at the rear, called the East Wing. The lot is flanked today by apartment houses on either side, or a school to the rear, but at the time the almshouse was built, this was part of a large, town-owned working poor farm.

The Malden City Infirmiry is a well-preserved, representative example of an almshouse converted to a City Infirmiry, and the complex is an increasingly rare example in Massachusetts of a municipal facility for the care of the poor and elderly that was in continuous use for more than a century.

The period of significance begins in 1871 with the construction of the almshouse and ends in 1960 with the subdivision of the property for the construction of two adjacent Malden Housing Authority apartment buildings. Barns and other agricultural outbuildings that were part of the property's workings as the town farm were present through the 1950s.

The Malden City Infirmiry is significant for its role as a benevolent organization managed by a Massachusetts municipality from 1871 to its closure in 2009. The Malden City Infirmiry also is significant as a representative example of institutional architecture designed by local architects.

The 1871 almshouse (later known as the Warden's House) was designed by local architect W.G.H. Smart. In 1928, the city appropriated funds to build a new 106-bed infirmiry building, designed by another local architect, C. F. Springall. The addition of the City Infirmiry was part of a shift, seen throughout Massachusetts, of municipalities converting almshouses caring for the poor, who were usually able bodied, to infirmaries primarily caring for those who needed assistance and who were often elderly.

The U-shaped building was designed in the Colonial Revival style, with decorative trim including corner quoins, pilasters, and pediments over the entries. The building was planned so that all of the patients'

rooms were on the ground floor. One side was for women and the other side for men, with the kitchen and separate dining rooms at the front, or base, of the U.

The five-sided Sunroom attached to the Infirmary was originally a wooden structure dating to about 1918, but was incorporated into the infirmary in 1933 and sided in brick and modified with Colonial Revival trim to match the new infirmary.

By the 1950s, many former poorhouse properties were being converted to nursing and rehabilitation centers. In Malden the infirmary was converted into a city-run nursing home, solely caring for the elderly population, and it was renamed "The McFadden Memorial Manor" for the facility's former Warden James McFadden. The McFadden Memorial Manor continued as a nursing home until it was closed in June of 2009.

In 2016 the property was purchased from the city by the Volunteers of America, a nonprofit organization providing services for veterans, at-risk youth, mental health treatment, elder housing, and health services. The property, which was rehabilitated according to the Secretary of Interior Standards, opened as an assisted living facility in 2018.

The next nomination presented was for the **Orange Armory**, in the town of **Orange**. The applicant is the town of Orange, and the Orange Armory Commission, with Kathleen Kelly Bloomer as preservation consultant. Ms. Friedberg presented the nomination.

Orange Armory is about a quarter mile east of the Orange Center NRHD, and its siting illustrates the tradition of placing an armory in or close to the core of the community.

Orange Armory is significant for its architecture and for its associations with military history.

It is a so-called "first-class armory," built by the Commonwealth exclusively for militia use. It was constructed in 1913. Like most armories of the period, its plan includes a head house at the front of the building and the attached drill shed at the rear.

It was designed by the Boston-based architecture firm of Clarence T. McFarland and Herbert Warren Colby. It uses an eclectic blend of early 20th-century revival-style details -- principally the Classical Revival -- and character-defining programmatic and ornamental features distinctive to armory design specifically, and military architecture generally. The monumental stair to the drill hall evokes a sally port and drawbridge extended over a ditch, and narrow windows resemble embrasures, or wall openings to accommodate a defender's artillery fire.

The engineering required to provide unobstructed floor space for the enormous drill hall employed a system of steel trusses. The armory's drill hall included a large stage for concerts and theater productions, reflecting the idea of armories as community spaces, rather than purely military ones.

The armory is notable for its well-preserved interior finishes, including original wood trim and plaster, and pressed metal and bead board ceilings.

The Orange Armory closed in 1973, when rifle platoons then based there were transferred to the armory in Gardner.

The Town of Orange acquired the armory in 1975 as part of a deaccessioning of surplus armories in the Commonwealth, and has since expanded the community use to include municipal functions. From 1975 through the 1980s, the town renovated the armory using more than \$100,000 in grants obtained through federal, state, and Franklin County programs devoted to community development, human services, and

energy conservation. Voting for town elections has been conducted at the armory since 1979, once the Senior Center opened in the building, and the armory is a designated emergency shelter in the town. A roller skating business has operated in the drill hall since 1980, providing entertainment and generating income toward the maintenance of the building. The Town of Orange has an appointed Armory Commission that oversees the use of the building and manages rentals of the space.

The next nomination presented was for the Moseley School of Westfield. The applicant is the Moseley Apartments LTM Partnership; Epsilon Associates were the preservation consultants. Ms. Friedberg presented the nomination.

The Moseley School is located in the North Side residential neighborhood of the city of Westfield, on a lot of just over an acre.

The building is situated at the southern end of a parcel containing paved walkways, two playgrounds, grassed areas, and paved surface area enclosed by sections of a chain-link fence.

It's a two-story Colonial Revival style red brick school building with cast-stone trim that was constructed in two sections at different times and with different architects. The first section, the northern half, was built in 1915 and the second portion was built in 1922. When complete in that year, it had 12 spacious Classrooms on two floors, along with a second-floor auditorium.

The Moseley School served the City of Westfield as an elementary school for 94 years. The building is historically significant as a locally important institutional building, reflecting both early twentieth century progressive educational reform, and the city's growth at that time with increased industrialization and the arrival of more immigrant workers and their families.

The Moseley School is additionally eligible as a well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival style demonstrating the work of two significant and regionally known architects: George E. Haynes of Pittsfield, who designed the original section, and Malcolm B. Harding of Westfield, who designed the compatible addition.

The school closed in 2009. After sitting empty for a number of years, the building was recently rehabilitated and converted into affordable housing for homeless individuals and families. The masonry exterior was repaired and new, historically appropriate windows were installed. On the interior, the original classroom layout was largely maintained, with modifications to accommodate the new residential use, and four additional units were created within the existing auditorium space.

A two-story addition constructed on the northern end of the building contains the building's elevator, laundry rooms and main first-floor entrance.

The final nomination presented was for **The Printers Building in Worcester**. The applicant is The Printers Building Trust, with MacRostie Historic Advisors as preservation consultants. Ms. Friedberg presented the nomination.

The Printers Building is a seven-story, reinforced-concrete, industrial office building located in downtown Worcester, approximately 1 ½ blocks north of Worcester Common and Worcester City Hall.

The neighborhood surrounding the Printers Building is densely developed with a mix of one- to ten-story commercial, civic, and residential properties and several surface parking lots.

The Printers Building was built in 1923 by the Printers Building Trust. It was built as a multi-tenant rental specifically to provide space for printing and binding companies. It is significant for its associations with Worcester's industrial history, and as a distinguished and well-preserved example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial commercial building designed with modest Classical Revival style elements.

Worcester in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was a city with increasingly expanding industrial development, with both small and large-scale manufacturing. One of the many industries that experienced great success during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the city's printing industry. Advances in printing machinery, such as the linotype machine, revolutionized printing, transforming what was once a small-scale industry into a trade with craft specialization, providing jobs for thousands of people.

In 1922, a group of local printers came together to form the Printers Building Trust in order to protect the printers who were operating in Worcester at the time from unfair rental rates. The Trust commissioned the prominent New-York-based architect Walter S. Timmis of the architectural firm Timmis & Chapman, most noted for their reinforced concrete construction, to design the seven-story reinforced concrete building. The new building provided a permanent home to the Printers and Allied Trades of Worcester.

Timmis' design for the Printers Building represents a pared-down, streamlined version of the Classical Revival style of architecture. He employed the typical Classical massing of an "ornamental" base, a large, generally simple shaft, and a slightly more decorative capital.

Ornament at the base included terra cotta panels holding, appropriately, open books.

The Printers Building Trust, to this day, remains the sole owner of the Printers Building. One of the original founding companies, Davis Publications, a division of Davis Press, is still doing business out of the building. From 2014-2019, the exterior and interior of the Printers Building underwent an extensive renovation, using state and federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

It continued to serve as office and industrial use on all floors, with additional educational workspace on every floor level.

This concluded the presentation of the June National Register nominations. Chairman Rosenberry thanked Ms. Friedberg. He explained how the Commissioners' questions and votes, and comments from members of the public, would occur under Zoom. He noted again that there were no recusals. The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Malcolm X-Ella Collins Little House in Boston** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kleespies and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilson. The Chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Malden City Infirmary in Malden** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner Cosco. The Chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. He recognized Charles Gagnon, president and chief executive officer for Volunteers of America Massachusetts, who thanked Secretary Galvin for his leadership and said that the conversion of the Malden Infirmary to Forestdale Park could not have happened without his support.. He also thanked Chairman Rosenberry and MHC staff for their assistance and support. He also thanked Mayor Christensen of Malden, State Rep. Paul Donato, other local authorities, and consultants Epsilon

Associates. The chairman called for any other questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Orange Armory** in the town of **Orange** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. Chairman Rosenberry called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. He recognized Alexander Wade, Director Planning and Community Development, Town of Orange, who thanked the Commissioners and MHC for their support and said that he looked forward to continued preservation of the building and to working with the MHC further in the future. The chairman called for any other questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Moseley School** in **Westfield** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. Chairman Rosenberry called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for **The Printers Building** in **Worcester** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for any questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the National Register portion of the agenda, and Chairman Rosenberry turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Executive Director's Report**. Executive Director Brona Simon began announcing to the Commissioners that MHC has remained open for business throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic. Most staff are working from home remotely, thanks to the Secretary's IT department, which has loaned staff laptops to be able to connect to MHC's computer system, shared files, databases, and providing Zoom capabilities. The staff who are in the building are following safety guidelines by social distancing of at least six feet apart and wearing masks.

During the Pandemic MHC workload has remained surprisingly high in the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, Review and Compliance, and National Register Nominations that are being written for federal tax credit projects, many of which the Commissioners will be seeing over the next several years.

The National Park Service staff have also continued to work in administering the National Register Program, the Tax Credit Program, and the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Programs. Since the Department of Interior Building is closed, those staff have also been working remotely.

She noted that everyone is safe and everyone is doing well.

Ms. Simon then announced that on June 4<sup>th</sup> the president signed a new executive order directing federal agencies to waive environmental regulatory reviews to speed up infrastructure projects under what he calls "the economic emergency" that has been caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The executive order is specific to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and other Army Corps of Engineers Statutes, all of which will trigger Section 106 reviews that identify and protect historic and archaeological resources. The executive order tells federal agencies that they can invoke the emergency provisions of each of those acts. However, under those acts, emergency provisions

are used in natural disasters and threats to the national security—the acts do not mention pandemics or economic emergencies. Many national preservation organizations such as the Society for American Archaeology and Preservation Action and other member organizations in a coalition at the national level are following this closely and asking the states to report any cases of avoidance of federal environmental review of infrastructure projects for potential court challenges by that the coalition. MHC will be tracking and following up, as needed.

Ms. Simon announced this year's Preservation Awards Program is on hold because of the pandemic. Staff have not been able to plan an awards ceremony due to limitations of numbers of people in a social gathering and social distancing.

Finally Ms. Simon announced there are no Commission meetings in July and August and that the next meeting will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This completed the Executive Director's report.

Hearing no further discussion, the chairman called for a MOTION to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present

JOHN ROSENBERRY  
CHARLES SULLIVAN  
DENNIS DEWITT  
DONALD FRIARY  
MARK WILSON  
MICHAEL MCDOWELL  
JONATHAN COSCO  
GAVIN KLEPIES  
ANNE PRIDE  
KELLIE CARTER JACKSON  
SUANNA SELBY CROWLEY  
CY FIELD

Staff Present

BRONA SIMON  
BETSY FRIEDBERG  
PAUL HOLTZ  
BEN HALEY  
ROSS DEKLE  
NANCY MAIDA  
MICHAEL STEINITZ  
TRACEY FORTIER  
ED BELL  
CHRIS SKELLY  
SHARI PERRY-WALLACE  
ELIZABETH SHERVA

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Brown