

Methuen Historic District Commission
March 27, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
Great Hall – Searles Building
41 Pleasant Street
Methuen, MA 01844

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Commissioner Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Martha Welch, Chair	Absent
Joseph Bella	Present
Raymond Dufresne	Present
Robert Fabino	Present
Christine Metzemaekers	Present
Katherine Robinson, Alternate	Present
David Sigillo, Alternate	Absent

Others in Attendance

Lynn Smiledge, Historic Planner, City of Methuen
Ryan Foley, Methuen
Paul Thibodeau
Michael Soliman
James Oh
Peter Cameron, Methuen

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Historic District Commissioner and friend Red Winn, who died unexpectedly in early March. The Commission is greatly saddened by his passing and will particularly miss his enthusiasm for making motions.

4. Acceptance of February 28, 2008 Minutes

MOTION BY Commissioner Bella to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting.
Second by Commissioner Metzemaekers.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

5. New Business

Acting Chair Dufresne explained the public hearing process before inviting the first applicant to make his presentation.

A. Public Hearing: Paul Thibodeau

268 Broadway: rear addition

Mr. Thibodeau presented elevations of the proposed rear addition to the property, which will replace the existing addition. He stated that the addition will feature Greek Revival details that match the original building and will blend nicely with neighboring structures. All the vinyl replacement windows in place will be reused; the paint colors and asphalt roof shingles will match existing. The addition will be supported by a full concrete foundation.

The applicant discussed door and trim details with Commissioners and confirmed that the corner board omitted from the left elevation will be installed. Mr. Thibodeau agreed to add a second corner board on the right elevation to the right of the corner board shown on the plan. Window trim will match existing. The two side doors will be reused if possible, or replaced with identical solid wood doors per the specification sheet provided by the applicant.

No one presented comments on the application during the public hearing session.

MOTION by Commissioner Robinson to approve the application with the following conditions:

- Corner boards will be applied to the front left corner (omitted from the building plan) and on the right elevation to the right of the corner board shown on the building plan
- Replacement solid wood panel doors, any of three styles indicated on the specification sheet, may be used for the side doors

Second by Commissioner Bella.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

B. Public Hearing: Ryan Foley

23 East Street: chimney removal

Mr. Foley circulated photographs of the rear chimney on his house, which leaks chronically despite repeated repair efforts. The chimney is not operational and was not original to the house. He would like to remove the chimney to below the roofline and close the opening with shingles that match the existing.

No one presented comments on the application during the public hearing session.

MOTION by Commissioner Robinson to approve the application as submitted. Second by Commissioner Metzemaekers.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

6. Other Business

Violations: Ms. Smiledge will inform the owner of Greener Cleaner that she may be subject to a \$100/day fine if her business does not come into compliance with the district regulations on neon signs. Ms. Smiledge will further investigate the green sign in the window at Vintage Rose Florist. She will modify the historic district's sign violation letter to include a reference to fines.

Walking Tour: Commissioners agreed to help Ms. Smiledge conduct a road test of the walking tour brochure prior to its finalization. She will inform them of the selected date. It was suggested that the tour serve as the basis for a future “Trails & Sails” event. Funds will be sought for new markers from the Castle Fund or other local source.

Miscellaneous: Commissioners voted to approve revisions to the Historic District Commission’s Rules and Regulations. Status of the nonfunctioning gaslights on Charles Street across from the Red Tavern was discussed. Ms. Smiledge will obtain information about sponsoring a vintage baseball game as a fundraiser or Trails & Sails event.

MOTION BY Commissioner Metzemaekers to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Bella.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Smiledge