HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

The Milford Historic Preservation Commission held a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2022, in City Hall. Chairman Silver called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Committee Members Present Also Present**

B. Silver, Chairman Joseph Satin

M. Kramer Schneur Wilhelm

J. Kranz

E. Johnson

C. Colton

**Excused**: K. Muller

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022**

Commissioners’ Kramer and Johnson made and seconded a motion to re-elect Bill Silver to continue serving as Chairman.

There being no further nominations, nominations for chairman were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Silver thanked the Commission for its support and confidence in having him continue serving as chairman. He stated he would entertain a motion for vice chair.

Commissioners’ Colton and Johnson made and seconded a motion to elect Michele Kramer to continue serving as vice chair.

There being no further nominations, nominations for vice chair were closed.

Motion carried 4 yes (Silver, Kranz, Johnson, Colton) and 1 abstention (Kramer).

Consideration of the Minutes of December 20, 2021

Commissioners’ Kranz and Kramer made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing for Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) RE: 15 Edgefield Avenue**

a. Action on Application – Chairman Silver read the Public Notice that appeared in the Milford Mirror on January 27, 2022. He then continued with an explanation of the procedures. Chairman Silver then opened the public hearing for public comment at 7:13 p.m. He welcomed Mr. Satin to address the Commission.

Mr. Satin thanked the Commission for hearing from him. He stated the last 9 years have been sad and annoying. He went on to explain the history from the fire to where they are now. Mr. Satin stated the congregation was formed in the 1920’s and was the original congregation in that area. He continued with a history of the synagogue. He noted both buildings were listed on the National Historic Registry in 1995, about the same time the membership changed were many members no longer lived in the area year-round. Mr. Satin stated the occurred October 14, 2012 and was finally settled with the insurance company in 2016. He continued with an explanation of the process in settling the claim and provided the Commission with photographs.

Chairman Silver asked if any Commission members had questions.

Commissioner Kramer asked about documentation such as historic photos and current photos, description of memorabilia, etc. She also stated she went to the site with a member of the historic preservation.

Commissioner Kranz asked about the water mark.

Rabbi Wilhelm (24 Pearson Avenue) stated both buildings had considerable amounts of damage.

Chairman Silver stated letters were sent out to the neighboring property owners on January 10, 2022. He stated they would now move onto the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

**Speakers in Favor:**

A. Lehrer – 85 Merwin Avenue – commented she has been around a long time and has been a proponent of saving the structure. She spoke of childhood memories of that area. Ms. Lehrer stated while she hoped the building could be saved, she has come to realize the building is just not redeemable, so she came tonight to speak in favor of taking the building down.

H. Lindy – 17 Highview Avenue – stated they are newcomers to this congregation and new from the moment they walked it that it was home. He stated the Rabbi, and his wife were most welcoming, adding he is so happy and grateful for this congregation.

J. Lindy – 17 Highview Avenue – She stated if there a way to save the building she would be in favor, but it has come to the point where the building must come down.

J. Rohleder - 26 Gillette Street – stated he came tonight to hear more and see what the plans are and what is going to happen with the structure.

**Speakers Opposed**:

None.

Chairman Silver stated he would move forward with the agenda, keeping the public hearing open to give anyone else who may want to testify the opportunity to do so. He deferred to Vice Chair Kramer for clarification as to whether she was looking for additional documents.

Vice Chair Kramer stated she was not looking for new documents, but more documentation of the process.

Commissioners’ Johnson and Kranz made and seconded a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Silver closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Commissioners’ Carter and Kranz made and seconded a motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness for 15 Edgefield Avenue.

Commissioner Carter thanked the members and Mr. Satin for their presentation tonight.

Vice Chair Kramer spoke of conversations she has had with the National Preservation Trust and explained that is how the idea of documenting came up.

Commissioner Kranz spoke of the structure of the building, noting it was important to find the line moving forward. He thanked Mr. Satin and the members for their thorough presentation.

Chairman Silver spoke of the consideration of preservation of properties, adding this Commission is in place to be stewards with obligations to preserve. He thanked Mr. Satin and the congregation for their efforts to date and encouraged them to make visual connections with the community.

Mr. Johnson stated he appreciated all the efforts of all involved and asked them to retain as much historical as possible.

Commissioners’ Carter and Kramer made and seconded a motion to amend to add the language “consistent with objectives of this Commission; and practically unusable to restore the physical site and structure of the building.” Motion carried unanimously.

On the main motion, motion carried unanimously.

**Commissioner’s outreach efforts and general readiness:**

**a. Budgetary needs and 2022/2023 aldermanic requests**

Chairman Silver stated he would like to recommend an increase in the budget of $2,000 for newspaper ad, secretarial, etc. A brief discussion ensued.

**New Business**

None.

**Consideration of Payment Requisitions**

None.

**Adjournment.**

Being no further business to discuss, Commissioners’ Kramer and Carter made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy Recording Secretary