**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION May 12, 2025**

PRESENT Loretta Frankovitch, Pete Coppins, Rita Geiben, Chris O’Hara, Jillian Stokes, James Baptiste, Donna Cassick, Shannon Fundis, Historian Russ Piper

CALL TO ORDER Loretta Frankovitch called the Historical Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES A motion was made by Rita Geiben seconded by Pete Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the April 14, 2025, minutes as submitted except for a spelling correction.

OLD BUSINESS **355 Niagara St – Exterior Restoration and Painting -Application for Certificate of Appropriateness** **2025-04**

The owners were unable to attend the meeting but answered questions by email from Loretta Frankovitch about the type of materials, replacing clapboard and plans for the window sills. The owner stated that when removing the aluminum siding they will only replace the wood clapboard that is not in good condition with in-kind clapboard. The window sills on the back of the house rotted from excessive water damage and will be replaced.

A motion was made by Chris O’Hara seconded by Jillian Stokes and passed unanimously

to approve the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness 2025-04 at 355 Niagara St. for exterior restoration and painting as presented with the recommendation the contractor

use composite materials that are not in the threat of rot when replacing window sills, front

door trim and pillar boxes.

NEW BUSINESS **748 Center St. – Development Plans**

Architect Jim Fittante presented plans for a new two-story structure that will have commercial use on the first floor and a single apartment on the second floor with a small balcony on the east side. The bottom trim on the front of the building will be made of black Azek Hardie Board, and the upper brick will be whitewashed in color.

A motion was made by Pete Coppins seconded by Rita Geiben and passed unanimously

to approve the development plans for 748 Center St. as presented.

**444 Center St – Queen B’s– Sign Application**

A motion was made by Rita Geiben seconded by Chris O’Hara and passed unanimously

to approve Queen B’s sign application at 444 Center St. as presented.

DISCUSSION Loretta Frankovitch said on May 29, 2025, The Friends of the Turtle will be receiving

an award for being listed on the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in the Nation and

congratulated James Baptiste on this huge accomplishment who was heavily involved.

Loretta Frankovitch stated that Amherst HPC was once again hosting a roundtable event,

also on May 29, 2025 at the Amherst Town Hall. All HPC members are welcome to attend.

Loretta Frankovitch also stated the National Alliance Preservation Commissions sent out a notice of the administration’s proposed budget plan to cut millions of funding to the Historic Preservation Fund. She asked everyone to contact Members of Congress and urged them to support full funding of the Historic Preservation Fund.

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Chris O’Hara seconded by Rita Geiben and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm.

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Donna Cassick