



**CITY OF HARTFORD
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
HARTFORD HISTORIC PROPERTIES &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS
260 Constitution Plaza – Hartford, CT
MINUTES
February 26, 2019**

The Hartford Historic Properties & Preservation Commissions held a Special Meeting at **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020** at the Plaza Level Conference Room of 260 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103.

Hartford Historic Properties Commission

Attendance

Present: Acting Chair Jeffrey Jahnke, Commissioners Albert Gary, Virginia Seeley and Alternate Commissioners Jonathan Clark

Absent, Commissioners Michael O'Connell, Edith Pestana and Alternate Commissioner Aurelia Gale

Staff Present: Vanessa Walton and Jonathan Hopkins

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Jeffrey Jahnke called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

HISTORIC REVIEWS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Hartford Historic Preservation Commission

Attendance

Present: Acting Chair Jeffrey Jahnke, Commissioners Albert Gary, Virginia Seeley and Alternate Commissioners Jonathan Clark

Absent, Commissioners Michael O'Connell, Edith Pestana and Alternate Commissioner Aurelia Gale

Staff Present: Vanessa Walton and Jonathan Hopkins

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Jeffrey Jahnke called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

HISTORIC REVIEWS

1. 140-160 Farmington Avenue

This was a proposal for a landscape plan for plantings, paving, monuments, structures and other

47 site work on the St. Joseph's Cathedral site. It is a 1961-1962 International/Gothic religious
48 building located in the Asylum Hill National Historic District.

49
50 Senior Planner Jonathan Hopkins gave an overview of the proposal and read a letter of support
51 for the renovation of the West Lawn into the records that he received from the Asylum Hill
52 Neighborhood Association (AHNA), signed by Mr. David McDonald, Executive Director of the
53 Neighborhood Association.

54
55 The applicant, Director of Property and Assets of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Mr. Paul E.
56 Connery was present, along with Mr. Henry Withers, Landscape Architect of PM Architecture,
57 LLC, were present and gave an extensive presentation of the project that they named, "the West
58 Lawn Revitalization". They answered questions from the Commission. They mentioned that they
59 met with Ms. Heather Dionne, City Forester, who was very interested in maintaining the plants on
60 the site.

61
62 Also present to speak was Ms. Mary Falvey, Executive Director of the Hartford Preservation
63 Alliance who had questions regarding the removal of the Cross from the property and the
64 whereabouts of the brownstone pieces from the original building (original building had been
65 burned down). She felt that it would be nice to incorporate the items into the memorials section
66 of the new landscape.

67
68 There were no further questions, testimony or comments and Acting Chair Jeffrey Jahnke closed
69 the Public Hearing. The Commission entered into deliberation and Commissioner Virginia
70 Seeley made a **MOTION** to **AMEND** the resolution to add a condition:

- 71 1. To the extent feasible, incorporate brownstone elements from the original church's
72 foundation walls into the landscape design as wayfinding or informational markers.

73 **Seconded** by Commissioner Albert Gary. The **AMENDED** resolution was **APPROVED with**
74 **CONDITIONS** by a vote of **4-0**.

75
76 **CITY OF HARTFORD**
77 **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**
78 **140-160 FARMINGTON AVENUE**
79

80 **Whereas,** The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the proposal to adopt a
81 landscape Plan for the St. Joseph Cathedral Campus; and

82
83 **Whereas,** The property is located in the Asylum Hill National Historic District; and

84
85 **Whereas,** All planning work will be done in a manner consistent with the historic character of the
86 house; and

87
88 **Whereas,** The applicant proposes to landscape, pave, and construct as follows:
89 1. New entry driveway off of Farmington Avenue;
90 2. Plant new plantings on the front lawn, side yards, and around the perimeter of newly
91 paved areas;
92 3. Install pavers for seating area, patios, and walkways;
93 4. Install lighting along newly paved driveways and walkways;
94 5. Construct precinct marker and entry market of concrete, glass, and stone;
95 6. Construct an orientation pavilion of glass and metal; and

96
97 **Whereas,** The proposed work is consistent with the City's Historic Design Principals;
98

Now Therefore Be It

Resolved, The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission hereby approves the proposed work with the following condition:

1. To the extent feasible, incorporate brownstone elements from the original church's foundation walls into the landscape design as wayfinding or informational markers.

Be It Further,

Resolved, This 26th day of February 2020.

2. 805 Asylum Avenue

This was a proposal for the partial demolition of an existing school building other site work on the St. Joseph's Cathedral site. It is a 1961-1962 International/Gothic religious building located in the Asylum Hill National Historic District.

Senior Planner Jonathan Hopkins gave an overview of the proposal. The applicant, Mr. Paul E. Connery, Director of Property and Assets of the Archdiocese of Hartford was present, along with Mr. Patrick Moore- PM Architecture, LLC, were present and gave an extensive presentation of the project and answered questions from the Commission.

Also there to speak was Mr. Michael Barr, AHNA, who stated that although the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association gave them a letter of support for the landscape of the West Lawn, he felt that they did not have enough time to review the demolition plans of the school building. He stated that he can see the intention, but would like to see the community have an opportunity to review the plans for the project presented.

Also present to speak was Ms. Mary Falvey, Executive Director of the Hartford Preservation Alliance who raised concerns regarding the windows (lack thereof- will be bricked in) when the demolition takes place. She felt that the building would take on the likeness of a warehouse. She also requested that they provide photos of the existing swimming pool located inside the building, as well as other features inside the building to the Library for history cataloguing.

There were no other comments or testimony and the public hearing was closed. Commissioner Virginia Seeley made a **MOTION** to **AMEND** the resolution to add the following condition:

1. The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association must formally approve of the proposed design by submitting a letter of support to the City of Hartford to be kept on file;

Seconded by Commissioner Albert Gary and the AMENDED resolution was **APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

**CITY OF HARTFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION
805 ASYLUM AVENUE**

Whereas, The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the partially demolish the existing annex building; and

Whereas, The property is located in the Asylum Hill National Historic District; and

Whereas, All demolition work will be done in a manner consistent with the historic character of the house; and

154
155 **Whereas,** The applicant proposes to partially demolish the existing annex building as follows:
156 1. Demolish approximately half of the existing former school building;
157 2. Retain the original entry and salvage brick and stone from the demolished end wall
158 for later reconstruction;
159 3. Install new dark bronze anodized finish Graham windows, or a product deemed as
160 equal, that match the historic character of the property;
161 4. Repair, repoint, and clean brick and stone as necessary;
162 5. Remove rear windows on the Asylum Avenue-facing façade, and close-up the
163 window openings with brick and mortar to match the existing;
164 6. Create a new entry vestibule, canopy, and sign on the ground level of the Farmington
165 Avenue façade; and
166

167 Now therefore Be It

168
169 **Resolved,** The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission hereby approves the proposed
170 work with the following condition:
171

172 The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association must formally approve of the proposed
173 design by submitting a letter of support to the City of Hartford to be kept on file;
174

175 Be It Further,

176
177 **Resolved,** This 26th day of February 2020.
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179

180 **MINUTES**

181 No minutes were approved.
182

183 **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

184 **124 Huntington Street-** Senior Planner Jonathan Hopkins had a question regarding work being done to
185 the satisfaction of the Commission on the front porch of the property, however the Commission did not
186 discuss this item at this meeting. [CA1]
187

188 **ADJOURNMENT**

189 The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.
190

191 Respectfully submitted by
192 Vanessa L. Walton, Executive Assistant
193

194 *Special note: There are only partial digital records of this meeting as there was technical difficulty*
195 *with the recording device.*