

SALEM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
March 4, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm at 98 Washington Street. Present were: Milo Martinez, Vijay Joyce, Stacey Norkun, Erin Schaeffer, Rebecca English, and Reed Cutting.

Request for Comment - Salem Willows Landscape project

Jenna Ide, Director of Capital Projects and Municipal Operations for the City of Salem and Jason Bobowski from Hatch Engineering were present to discuss the project.

Ms. Ide noted that while the Salem Willows is not located in a local historic district, the park is listed in the National Register and it is a city-owned historic site. Therefore, the City is asking the Commission to comment on the project.

Mr. Bobowski presented the proposed landscaping plan for the Salem Willows park. He noted that the City has been working on this project since fall 2018. He presented the plans for the removal of dead trees and proposal for new tree plantings. He also presented plans for parking lot updates. The plan is to remove 15 Acer Platanoides trees (Norway Maples) that are in poor condition. The new tree planting program for the Willows will be designed to grow and balance the age of trees at the site. Willows are shallow rooted plants and are not native to Salem. They have a large canopy and shallow roots and are vulnerable to wind damage. Much of the original Willow allee has been lost and is now a paved area. They are proposing to replant with native species that are appropriate for this area and are based on soils, conditions and history of site. They are removing one Willow and planting 5 new Willows. Three willows have been lost to wind since the project began. The proposal is for perennial plantings where two Willows were recently lost at the flag pole. The final project plans are expected to be done by summer and tree removals will begin in the spring of 2020.

There was no public comment.

**VOTE: Ms. English made a motion for the Commission to issue a letter of support for the project. Ms. Schaeffer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.**

159 Derby Street- continuation

Paul Nathan submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new sign.

Documents & Exhibits

- Application: 2/4/20
- Photographs
- Sign design

James Bostick, president of the Salem Arts Association was present to represent Mr. Nathan.

Mr. Bostick presented revised drawings for the new sign. He noted that an Arts Association member has agreed to make a custom wrought iron bracket for the sign and is working with the sign maker. In

addition, based on feedback from the Commission at the last meeting, the Association has reduced the size of the sign to 30" x 30" instead of the original proposal for 36" x 36".

Mr. Martinez mentioned taking photos of the sign to help show dimensions and sizes.

Mr. Bostick noted that the sign would need to be 10ft above the ground, corresponding with the sill line. Ms. English said the sign is visually nice as long as it's above the sill and color is visually pleasing

There was no public comment.

**VOTE: Ms. Norkun made a motion to approve the application with the condition that the bottom of the bracket align with the bottom of the 2nd floor window sill. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.**

### 90 Federal Street

Carrie Francis Cabot submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new balcony.

#### Documents & Exhibits

- Application: 2/19/20
- Photographs
- Drawings by Helen Sides

Carrie Francis Cabot, owner, and Helen Sides, architect were present.

Ms. Sides presented the proposal to replace a window on the rear of the west elevation with a door and to install a new iron balcony. She noted that the balcony will not have exterior stairs. The balcony would be a story above ground and would allow the owner to have some outdoor space. The balcony would be painted the same color as the house to make it blend in more with the house and the bracket underneath would be painted black. The balcony would be 4' x 7' and a small corner of the balcony would be visible from Federal Street. The balcony would be similar to a fire escape approved for a house on Chestnut Street. Ms. Sides presented an image of the Chestnut Street fire escape to show how transparent the wrought iron balcony would be against the house.

The Commission agreed that the door is not visible from a public way named in the district. The Commission agreed that the balcony railing should be centered on cornerboard.

There was no public comment.

**VOTE: Mr. Joyce made a motion to approve the application with the condition that the balcony be painted black. Ms. Norkun seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.**

### 18 Chestnut Street - continuation

Victoria Kelleher submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for paint colors.

#### Documents & Exhibits

- Application: 1/2/20
- Photographs

Victoria Kelleher, owner, and Jessica Herbert, consultant, were present.

Ms. Herbert presented the application for a new color scheme for the house since the paint is chipping off. Currently it is light gray and white. Ms. Herbert noted that the owner previously applied for a body color that was earthy with lots of brown. She is now proposing a blue body color with dark shutters: Cadeaux for body, Leapfrog for shutters and door, Luna for accents and Cricket White for trim. The window sash will Railroad. Fence will be replaced in-kind in the future.

Ms. Norkun asked about the front door color and the color of the steps. Ms. Kelleher replied that the steps will be granite and the door will be the same as the shutters. The door threshold will be the the body color.

Public Comment:

Craig and Shawn Smith, 14 Chestnut Street, expressed concerns about the window color because they live across from the house.

Helen Sides asked if the bay window and portico would be the same color as the trim.

Ms. Herbert responded that the color will be the same as the trim color. Ms. Sides suggested that no accent color be used on the bay and portico to make the house blend as one piece.

Ms. Schaeffer expressed concern that the proposed red (Railroad) color for the window sash was not consistent with historical color contexts.

Ms. Herbert noted that the house was built in 1800, so due to the age there have been a lot of changes and additions to the structure. The goal was to make the house colors balance and not look too busy. She asked if the sidelights and fanlight should be in an accent color.

Mr. Martinez suggested that the red be a little darker. He also noted that painting the sidelights and fanlight in the red could take away from the detail.

Ms. Norkun asked if the window in the foundation would be gray or black to make it blend.

Mr Craig Smith expressed concern about the chimney being white.

Ms. Norkun said that painting the top part of the chimney white was a traditional way of painting chimneys in the past and she expressed support for the color scheme.

The Commission asked if storm windows would be painted.

Ms. Kelleher replied that the storms would not be changed at this point and that many of the shutters would be rebuilt.

**VOTE: Ms. English made a motion to approve the application as presented with the option for the owner to select a darker red and the condition that the fanlight and sidelight be the same color as the trim. Mr. Joyce second the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.**

Request to accept Preservation Restriction for Salem Athenaeum

Ms. Kelleher presented the request that the Historical Commission accept the preservation restriction as a condition of the CPA funding. The Historical Commission will be the overseer of the preservation restriction on behalf of the City.

**VOTE: Ms. English made a motion to accept the preservation restriction for the Salem Athenaeum. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so carried.**

Other Business:

49 Federal Street

Ms. Kelleher discussed a staff memo she sent to the Salem Redevelopment Authority regarding a proposal to renovate the historic house at 49 Federal Street and add a small addition. She noted that most of the exterior of the Second Empire style building will be restored, including removal of aluminum siding and restoration of wood windows. An enclosed porch would be renovated and a dormer would be changed. Seger Architects, architects for the project, have agreed to change the design to accommodate some of the suggestions made in the staff memo.

12 Laurel Street

Ms. Kelleher reported on plans for the Matsuki House, which is located in South Salem. The house features an interior inspired by Japanese architecture. The Peabody Essex Museum is involved in trying to save the building and its interior features. The house has been purchased by a developer who has hired Seger Architects to design an addition for a second unit. Mr. Martinez found images of the house on Zillow that shows the historic Japanese architecture and a report on the building that describes its importance as a story of immigration cultural exchange with rare parallel examples anywhere else. Developed originally in 1894 by a Boston architectural firm for a Japanese architect.

21 Washington Square

Ms. Kelleher reported that the owner has installed the reproduction cast iron snowguard and it looks really great.

Historic Salem is looking for nominations for preservation awards. Ideas include 21 Washington Square. Martinez mentioned if the owner kept the fireplace or not. Unclear. From the Egyptian era. Other ideas include the Daniel Bray house and 92 Federal Street.

Ms. Norkun reported that she has reached out to the Newport Historical Commission to ask what type of roofing shingles they approve. She noted that the shingles used have a low contrast look that looks more similar to the original wooden shingles. She is waiting to hear back from them.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Kelleher  
Preservation Planner