

**Chicopee Historical Commission  
Voting Record and Minutes  
(Special Meeting)**

The Planning Board of the City of Chicopee public hearing for Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 4:00 PM, RiverMills Senior Center, Classroom 30, 5 West Main Street, Chicopee, MA.

**Meeting was brought to order at 4:00 PM by Joshua Clark, Chair of the Historical Commission.**

Historical Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Joshua Clark, Chair	X		
Sandra Ross Vice Chair	X		
Linda Menard-Mruk Clerk	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		

Planning Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			
James Dawson, Development Manager			
Patrick McKenna, Asst.	X		

**ITEM 1: Cabotville Presentation and support letter.**

Project update was presented by Project Manager, Rachel Couture of Silverbrick on the Cabotville Mill Redevelopment. Massachusetts Historic Commission has given its approval on the project. Since Cabotville Mill is on the National Historic Register the developer is required to amend the window design, and other elements of the design package and the signage (specifically arrows on the sign and on the building). Amendments were made and submitted to National Parks. Once approval is received, construction can begin. Construction is anticipated to take between 12-14 months. The Commission asked about EverSource being the electric supplier. Jeff Cady of Chicopee Electric Light stated that EverSource has historically provided power to this site as it is within their service area. Silverbrick requested a letter of support from the Commission for the project changes to submit to the Massachusetts Historic Commission through Silverbrick.

**A motion to send a support letter to the Massachusetts Historical Commission was made by Linda Mruk and seconded by Sandra Ross. Vote was 4-0 to approve and send a letter of support to the Massachusetts Historical Commission through Silverbrick.**

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark, Chair	X			
Sandra Ross Vice Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Clerk	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			

**ITEM 2: CEL 1895 Building presentation and support letter.**

Jeffrey Cady, General Manager of the Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) Department presented the “1895 Building” reconstruction project. In 1895 in order to lower costs and have more reliable electric power CEL was established, and the “1895 Building” was built. The building was renovated in 1905 and again in 1950, when a second story was added. In order to add the second story a steel superstructure was added to the interior for support. As a result of this process only minimal portions of the original building remain. This building is currently the operations center. The building contains no central heating system, the restrooms need repair and the masonry is deteriorating. Mr. Cady explained that it will be more feasible to remove the load bearing walls and rebuild than to try to bring the existing structure into compliance with State Building Codes. The original foundation will be used. The proposed architectural design will resemble the original building in character with the reuse of as much of the original building as possible. The second floor of the new building will have CEL Transmission Staff isolated for security purposes. The new building will also house emergency operations and a conference room. Mr. Cady stated there would be two phases of the project. The first phase involves relocation of CEL staff and the required bidding process. CEL has an in-house committee to oversee the project. Commissioner Clark questioned the color of the new brick. He wanted assure it was a close match to the original 1895 building.

A motion to approve and sign a project support letter was made by Sandra Ross and seconded by Raymond Hoess-Brooks. Vote was 4-0 to approve and sign a project support letter for the Massachusetts Historical Commission through CEL.

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark, Chair	X			
Sandra Ross Vice Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Clerk	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			

**ITEM 3: New business**

- Commissioner Mruk read an update on the Gaylord House renovation provided by the Elms College.
- Commissioner Mruk reported that Tom Moriarity was asked to do a presentation about the history of Elms College for the Commission’s oral history project. Due to health issues, Tom cannot present at this time but was interested in doing so in the future.
- Commissioner Clark informed the Commission that the funding for the new roof at the old library building was approved by the City Council. Planning Staff gave us an update on possible interest in the reuse of the building. Staff also gave us information about the Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) individual that will be working in Chicopee for 2 years. Interviews are scheduled for Friday, August 9, 2019. The TDI individual will work with the City on revitalization.

**ITEM 4: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Raymond Hoess-Brooks and seconded by Sandra Ross. **Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.**

Member	Approve	Deny	Table	Abstain
Joshua Clark Chair	X			
Sandra Ross Vice Chair	X			
Linda Menard-Mruk Clerk	X			
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X			

**Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.**