

**BILLERICA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES
August 6, 2025**

A meeting of the Billerica Historic District Commission was held on Wednesday August 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, in room 210 and via Zoom. This meeting is recorded.

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman; Travis Brown, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Richard Hawes, Member; Mike Rea, Member; Dan Valentine, Alt Member; Katherine Malgieri, Town Planner and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk

Excused: Kathy Meagher, Alt Member

Absent: John McKenna, Member; George Simolaris, Member; Mary Jones, Alt Member; and Tina Pesiridis, Alt Member

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

REORGANIZATION:

Chairman

Travis Brown seconded by Mary McBride, made a motion to nominate David Gagliardi as Chairman.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine-Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

Vice Chair

Dan Valentine, seconded by Richard Hawes, made a motion to nominate Travis Brown as Vice Chairman.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine-Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

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Secretary

Mike Rea nominated Mary McBride as Secretary. Mary McBride thanked Mike but said she does not accept the nomination.

Mary is now an alternative member of the commission and would prefer not to be secretary.

Mary McBride, seconded by Mike Rea, nominated Kathy Meagher as Secretary.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine-Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elaine Kunicki of Passaconaway Dr - Mrs. Kunicki and started the Beautification Committee thirty years ago. Also, thirty years ago a committee was formed to restore the band stand. Billerica is the only town in the area with a historically accurate Band Stand. It is not a gazebo; it was built as a band stand. It is no long big enough for a band with all their equipment. It is also not handicap accessible.

Mary Leach, William Rd. – Ms. Leach is in support of the gazebo/Band Stand as a historic ornament if it cannot be restored for use. It should be restored and left as is, not accessible. If there is any way she could help with this project, to restore it, she would be happy to do so.

APPLICATIONS:

Mary McBride, seconded by Dan Valentine, made a motion to open the public hearing

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine -Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

482 Boston Road – Major - App #2025-08 – Northern Bank Rebuild & Demolition of existing structure – Mark Vaughan, Attorney; Larry Mawn, Northern Bank; Mark Sereda, O’Sullivan Architects; and Brian Jones, Allen & Major

Applicants are seeking approval to rebuild Northern Bank on same property as existing building. Once new building is completed, the existing building will be torn down.

Attorney Mark Vaughan, Riemer & Braunstein, Burlington, MA, representing Northern Bank – Attorney Vaughan began by introducing himself and others with him tonight. Mark Sereda from O’Sullivan Architects, and Mike Malynowski from Allen & Major civil engineers. The existing building has been there since the mid 70’s. It is not a historic building They went over their PowerPoint presentation showing the existing building. Attorney Vaughan turned the presentation over to Mark Sereda from O’Sullivan Architects. He went over the new plans/design. He also brought samples of the materials they will be using for the siding and brick work. They will be using paint from Ben Moore and antique copper-looking metal roof. They went over the doors, windows, sills, signage, lighting, colors, sizes etc.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions and concerns. The signage looks good; do they meet all requirements? Yes, we plan on meeting all requirements. Great improvement over what is there now. A benefit to the area. Well proportioned and nice use of colors. Is it possible to give the bottom stonework an older look? It’s a good thought, we can look into it.

Anyone from the public wish to speak on this application? There were none.

Attorney Vaughan had one more question for the commission regarding the application and an extension of time for zoning approvals. The commission was okay with the extension.

Travis Brown, seconded by Richard Hawes, made a motion to close the public hearing

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine -Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

Dan Valentine, seconded by Travis Brown, made a motion to approve Major Application #2025-08 with an extension to commence with the Planning Board process.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine -Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

45 Talbot Road – Minor – App #2025-09 – install signage outside the covenant – Christine Kilburn representing St. Andrew’s / St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish. Ms. Kilburn explained they are looking for approval for a sign for the former rectory at St. Andrew Church. They are re-doing the rectory to make it into a convent for the four Sisters that are currently residing there. Ms. Kilburn had come before the commission about a year for signs for the Church and tonight she is here for same design signage for the convent. At the top it says, “St. Matthew the Evangelist” and underneath it says, “Convent of Sisters of Good News”. It is just to show where the Sisters live and they are a part of the Church Parish.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions and concerns. Are the dimensions the same as the Church signs? Yes, the dimensions are 54 inches by 32 inches by 2 inches. It is a single faced carved sign with aluminum frame and will have a granite post.

Richard Hawes, seconded by Dan Valentine, made a motion to approve Application 2025-09.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine-Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

Billerica Historical Commission

The Historical Commission is requesting support from the Historic District Commission for their application to the Community Preservation Committee to receive funding to update Billerica’s historical building inventory.

Katherine Malgieri, representing the Billerica Historical Commission, explained that the BHC is submitting an application to the Community Preservation Committee to ask for funds to study more sights in town for historic preservation. The last time there was a good healthy inventory of historic sites and areas, which was in the 1970’s. At that time not everything was considered special or historic. They didn’t necessarily catch everything. At this time, they do have an entire town-wide plan for which sites are needed to be studied further. The plan is available on the Historic Preservation website if you are interested in reading the whole thing. It divides the work into four priority lists. The application being submitted is for number one of the priority lists. Katherine read the top priority list for this commission. They were also given a copy in their packet.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions and concerns. Is this something that will be farmed out? Yes, a consultant will be doing it. The estimated cost is based off the Historic Preservationist that created the plan. The 70’s were sixty years ago, what age is now considered for historical? Mt. Pleasant Street,

we already know, is an old and pretty significant area, Garden City is a bit more modern. You can see from this list, they are still looking at the 1700 and 1800's. On another of the lists is Nutting Lake. Now that it has been a hundred years, it can be put on the list. It does have historical significance even though it was not inventoried back in 1970. Have these properties never been surveyed before? Some may have been surveyed back in the 70s. Historical Preservationists do say properties should be re-surveyed. There have been homes torn down before they had a chance to survey them, with this plan others will at least be listed and possibly protected.

Richard Hawes, seconded by Travis Brown, made a motion to write a letter of support to the Billerica Historical Commission.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Aye
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine-Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

OTHER BUSINESS:

Miscellaneous Correspondence:

The owner of the dam has filed an appeal and it is in the hands of NMCOG. -No other information on this at this time.

Next meeting September 3, 2025

Approval of Minutes: July 2, 2025

Richard Hawes, seconded by Mary McBride, made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2025.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 5-0-1:

Michael Rea-Ayr
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine -Abstain
David Gagliardi-Aye

ADJOURNMENT:

Travis Brown, seconded by Richard Hawes, made a motion to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken

Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2025

It was voted 6-0:

Michael Rea-Ayr
Mary McBride-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
Richard Hawes-Aye
Dan Valentine -Aye
David Gagliardi-Aye

Chairman Gagliardi adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk