



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 2, Article XI. New Bedford Historical Commission; Historic Districts

31- 509

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford as follows:—

SECTION 1. Section 2-150 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances “Establishment; membership”, first sentence, is hereby amended by striking “National Park Service” and inserting “New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park” in place thereof, and by striking

“two (2) members where possible from nominees submitted by the New Bedford Port Society, the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, the Waterfront Historic Area League, the New Bedford Historical Society and any other recognized local historic societies, one architect where possible from two (2) candidates, one of whom shall be nominated by the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering New Bedford, and one of whom shall be nominated by the society of landscape architects covering the city, one member where possible from two (2) nominees of the Greater New Bedford Board of Realtors, and one landowner or tenant where possible in the historic districts who should have no connection with any of the above categories.”

and inserting in place thereof

“one member where possible from two nominees submitted by a recognized local historic society, one architect where possible from two (2) nominees submitted by the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering New Bedford, one member where possible from two (2) nominees of the Greater New Bedford Board of Realtors, and two members who are property owners or residents of separate established historic districts in the City.”

so that the first sentence as amended reads as follows:

“There is hereby established under the Historic Districts Act, M.G.L.A. c. 40C, with all the powers and duties of an historic district commission, a New Bedford Historical Commission, consisting of seven (7) members to be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council, including one member or representative where possible of the city planning department,

one member or representative where possible of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, one member where possible from two nominees submitted by a recognized local historic society, one architect where possible from two (2) nominees submitted by the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering New Bedford, one member where possible from two (2) nominees of the Greater New Bedford Board of Realtors, and two members who are property owners or residents of separate established historic districts in the City.”

SECTION 2. Section 2-150 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances, second sentence, is hereby amended by striking the sentence in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new sentence:

“Seven (7) alternate members shall also be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. The alternate members shall consist of one (1) representative of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, two (2) property owners or residents of a Historic District, one (1) licensed general contractor or building tradesperson, and three (3) persons, who through education or experience, have demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation or have a background in any of the categories represented by the regular members of the commission. To the extent a person meets more than one of the foregoing specific membership requirements, then each such specific membership requirement so met shall be satisfied by such person's membership on the commission. The appointments to membership in the commission shall be so arranged that the term of at least one member will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for terms of three years. Vacancies shall be filled in like manner for the unexpired term. In the case of any member being unable to attend commission meetings for any reason, his or her place shall be taken by an alternate member designated by the chairperson.”

SECTION 3. Section 2-150 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraph as a second paragraph:

“Each member and alternate shall continue in office after the expiration of his or her term until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. All members shall serve without compensation. The commission shall elect annually a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its own number and a secretary from within or without its number.”

SECTION 4. Section 2-156 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by striking the title “Bedford landing historic district established.” And inserting “Establishment of Historic Districts.” in place thereof.

SECTION 5. Section 2-156 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by inserting subsection “(1) Bedford Landing Historic District” before the first sentence of Section 2-156 so that the section as amended reads as follows:

“(1) Bedford Landing Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, one historic district to be known as Bedford Landing, bounded and described as shown on the

map entitled, 'Bedford Landing-Waterfront Historic District,' as amended, attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived."

SECTION 6. Section 2-156 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by inserting the following subsections after subsection (1) as subsection (1) is inserted herein:

"(2) Mechanics Lane Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, a historic district to be known as Mechanics Lane, bounded and described as shown on the map entitled, "Mechanics Lane Historic District," attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

- a) All powers and duties set forth in this article shall be incorporated in this section, with the exception that the authority of the commission within the Mechanics Lane district is not extended to the review of the following:
 - i) Temporary structures or signs, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;
 - ii) Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks and similar structures or any one or more of them, provided that any structure is substantially at grade level with the qualification that on-grade areas intended for parking more than four motor vehicles are subject to review by the Historical Commission to assure that adequate planting, earth berms, walls or similar structures are implemented to screen or regulate the physical scale of the areas and to minimize their visual impact as viewed from public ways;
 - iii) Walls and fences;
 - iv) Storm doors and storm windows, screens, window air conditioners, lighting fixtures, antennae and similar appurtenances or any one or more of them;
 - v) The color of paint;
 - vi) Signs of not more than one square foot in area in connection with use of a residence for a customary home occupation or for professional purposes, provided only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board.

(3) Abolition Row Historic District

There is hereby established under the provisions of the Historic Districts Act, a historic district to be known as Abolition Row, bounded and described as shown on the map entitled, "Abolition Row Historic District," attached to and made part of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

- a) All powers and duties set forth in this article shall be incorporated in this section, with the exception that the authority of the commission within the Abolition Row district is not extended to the review of the following:
 - i) Temporary structures or signs, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board;

- ii) Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks and similar structures or any one or more of them, provided that any structure is substantially at grade level with the qualification that on-grade areas intended for parking more than four motor vehicles are subject to review by the Historical Commission to assure that adequate planting, earth berms, walls or similar structures are implemented to screen or regulate the physical scale of the areas and to minimize their visual impact as viewed from public ways;
- iii) Walls and fences;
- iv) Storm doors and storm windows, screens, window air conditioners, lighting fixtures, antennae and similar appurtenances or any one or more of them;
- v) The color of paint;
- vi) Signs of not more than one square foot in area in connection with use of a residence for a customary home occupation or for professional purposes, provided only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly, subject to requirements of the local zoning code and/or planning board.”

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the General Laws.

