



# TOWN OF VERNON

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OFFICE OF THE  
LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

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## Minutes – Regular Meeting – July 9, 2020

Chairman Hurd called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM via ZOOM Audio Teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.0 Roll Call – Members were present: Hurd, Quinn, Saucier, and Nelson. Absent was member Iacobello. Alternates present were Sierakowski and Nicholson. Absent was Alternate Trapp. Sierakowski sat for Iacobello. Also present were George McGregor, Town Planner, Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator, Glenn Yeakel, AIA of Friar Architecture and Brian Kenny, Business Manager of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Regular Meeting – April 9, 2020 – A motion was made by Sierakowski, seconded by Saucier to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting as presented with the vote in favor with Quinn abstaining. Motion approved.

### 3.0 Communications – deferred

### 4.0 Review of PZC, ZBA, and Demolition Applications

4.1 Review of PZ-2020-08 – Special Permit Application from Saint Bernard RC Church, Rockville, CT- A presentation was made by Brian Kenny, Business Manager, Blessed Sacrament Parish, and Glenn Yeakel, AIA, Friar Architecture.

The proposal submitted by Blessed Sacrament Parish is to demolish the existing two-story former convent at 22 School Street in the Rockville Historic District. The building is currently being used as the parish center. The building was constructed in 1923 by the firm Whiton and McMahon of Hartford. Four late nineteenth century/early twentieth century buildings comprise the St. Bernard RC Church campus with this building, along with the school, fronting on School Street. Plans are, following demolition, to construct a one story addition to the St. Bernard School with upgrades including HVAC, an elevator, stairway, bathrooms and removal of the exterior fire escape. Parking will include fourteen additional spaces including handicap as well as a safer drop-off area within the campus. Plans are to reuse the brownstone sills, and the stained glass window of the former convent.

Concern was expressed that the former convent has unique character with its loss creating an impact on the historic character of not only School Street, but also the village district of Rockville. The proposed addition to the school building with its visibility to School Street will have an incompatible height adjacent to the three story school building. Additional areas of concern for the addition are a chain link fence, HVAC screening and significantly small windows.

A motion was made by Sierakowski to table pending further information. The motion was lost for lack of a second. Discussion continued.

A motion was made by Sierakowski, seconded by Quinn and unanimously voted to object to the immediate demolition of the historic Parish Hall/former convent on the property of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in the Rockville Historic District. Chairman Hurd will inform the Building Official via letter of this action.

A motion was made by Sierakowski, seconded by Quinn and unanimously voted to table the discussion of the site development and building addition and rehabilitation plans for the historic St. Bernard School to allow the applicant to respond to concerns relating to the mass (height) of the addition, the character of the street facing wall of the addition and to authorize the Chairman to ask the PZC to hold open the public

hearing to allow the LHPC to submit our recommendation for the record following our August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

5.0 Unfinished Business - deferred

6.0 New Business - deferred

7.0 The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM with a motion made by Quinn, seconded by Saucier and unanimously approved.

  
~~DRAFT FOR APPROVAL~~

Carol S. Nelson, Secretary

Date Approved:

*August 13, 2020*