CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Department of Planning
133 William Street • Room 303 • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
(508) 979-1488 • www.newbedford-ma.gov

STAFF REPORT

NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING **July 8, 2019**

CASE # 2019.15: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
15 Hamilton Street (Map 53 Lot 177)

APPLICANT: Daniel Faber
49 Doolittle Avenue
Dartmouth, MA 02747

OWNER: Rick Miller
171 Mendell Rd
Rochester, Ma 02770

15 Hamilton Street

OVERVIEW: The applicant is seeking approval to replace existing wood gutters with fiberglass gutters.

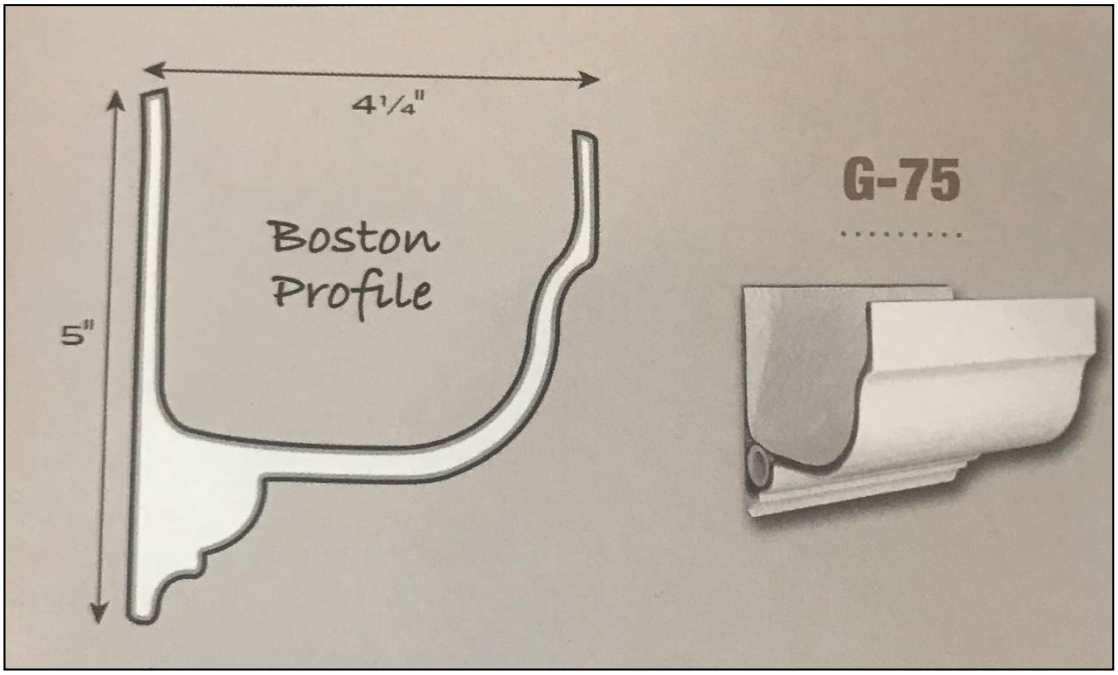
EXISTING CONDITIONS: The Ivory H. Bartlett & Sons Building, constructed in 1876 as a counting house, is a two-and one - half story brick building on a granite foundation, located immediately east of, and sharing a party wall with the Double Bank Building. The hipped roof has slate covering and wood gutters. The building has been divided into three condominium units and a roof deck was recently installed on the roof's south facing slope.

PROPOSAL: The applicant is proposing to replace all the existing wood gutters which are beginning to exhibit signs of rot with fiberglass gutters which will match the existing gutter profile and will be painted to match the existing paint color.

STATEMENT OF APPLICABLE GUIDELINES: *The Bedford Landing District Design Guidelines* state the following relative to this proposal:

Gutters & Downspouts: The most common system used in the District is an exterior drainage system, which includes gutters and downspouts, made of wood or metal, and flashing. Gutters are installed along the cornice level of pitched-roof buildings to conduct water to the downspouts. Metal gutters come in a variety of shapes within the District, including half-round or formed ogee, and typically are made of galvanized metal, copper, lead-coated copper or aluminum. Half-round gutters with round downspouts are a common style on many buildings. A few of the properties retain their original built-in drainage systems, in which lined gutters are built into the cornice, making the system less visible than external gutter systems. The elements of historic drainage systems contribute to the character of the building, and careful consideration should be given to choosing the same or similar materials when undertaking any repair to the drainage system.

Drainage systems constructed of historic materials should be retained and repaired as necessary. Repairs should be made using in-kind materials, matching the profile and finish as closely as possible. Refasten loose downspout support brackets in mortar joints. Do not reattach brackets to brick or stone surfaces. Refasten loose gutter support straps under the roofing material. Do not secure to the roof surface. Replace any broken or missing brackets with compatible brackets. If replacement of gutters or downspouts is required, the new gutter should match the original in color, dimensions, and shape. Seamless metal gutters can be made to match original profiles. Replacing original internal, or boxed-in, gutter systems with suspended gutters is not allowed or recommended.



PROPOSED FIBERGLASS GUTTER PROFILE TO MATCH EXISTING

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Historical Commissions throughout the Commonwealth are beginning to recognize that historic wood gutters are not sustainable, as they are difficult to maintain, do not shed water adequately, and often result in cornice and facia issues. Commissions are allowing fiberglass gutters to replace wood gutters, as manufacturers can match common wood gutter profiles, the fiberglass can be painted, and they shed up to 30% more water than shallow wood gutters. Staff recommends the approval and the issuance Certificate of Appropriateness for the fiberglass gutters.