



# Town of Sudbury

## Historical Commission

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### MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Jan Costa, Marjorie Katz, Steve Greene, Taryn Trexler, Kathryn McGrath, Chris Durall

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Historic Preservation Plan project Consultant Peter Benton

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Durall-Present, Hagger-Present, McGrath-Present, Cebra-Present, Costa-present, Warren-Present, Greene-Present, Katz-Present

Ms. Trexler was not present for roll call.

#### **Approval of December 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

December 14, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the December 14, 2021 SHC meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye, Hagger-aye

VOTED: To approve the December 14, 2021 SHC meeting minutes, as amended

#### **82 Morse Road, Broadacres Farm under Demo Delay Bylaw**

Present: Building Inspector Andrew Lewis

Mr. Hagger stated that the Commission under the Demolition Delay Bylaw was to determine if the structures are historically significant.

Mr. Hagger stated Mr. Lewis had submitted the Demo Delay Bylaw Application on December 30, 2021, listing three structures and Commissioners conducted a site visit on January 25, 2022.

Mr. Hagger provided related description regarding the three sheds at Broadacres Farm. Mr. Lewis explained that there was not much information in the Building Department files about these structures except for a 1952 building permit for shed structure number 2, adding that each of the structures was in poor condition. All structures are listed in the MACRIS listing.

Mr. Hagger had asked the Building Inspector if any of the structures had been declared under the Demolition Delay Bylaw as an emergency demolition. Mr. Lewis stated that they had not.

Ms. Warren stated that the structures were built after 1940 and would not qualify as historically significant structures.

Ms. McGrath commented about a stone foundation on one of the structures that might be earlier and might be warrant testing.

Ms. Costa suggested at some point (independent of this application), the Commission might consider evaluating all the barns in Sudbury. Ms. McGrath mentioned the barn survey document in Sterling, MA. Ms. Warren noted three years ago she compiled a listing of barns in Sudbury. She agreed such study should be continued, and be included in the Historic Preservation Plan.

Mr. Hagger motioned that SHC had discussed the Demo Delay Bylaw for the three structures at 82 Morse Road, Broadacres Farm; and are of the opinion that the three buildings, due to ages of construction, do not fall under the Sudbury's Demo Delay Bylaw; therefore, SHC cannot render a decision on these buildings. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Warren-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Greene-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: The three structures at 82 Morse Road, Broadacres Farm; due to age s of construction, do not fall under the Sudbury's Demo Delay Bylaw; therefore, SHC cannot render a decision on these buildings.

Mr. Lewis confirmed he would submit the SHC determination to the Town Manager.

### **Sudbury Eagle Scout Project Update**

Present: Sudbury Eagle Scout Asher Leavitt – Troop #61, IT Director Mark Thompson

Ms. Cebra confirmed she and Mr. Duvall provided Asher Leavitt and his parents, a tour of the Hosmer House several weeks ago. She stated she provided a copy of the docents list of house description/inventory and paintings.

Ms. Cebra noted that Eagle Scout Leavitt inquired about the Hosmer House maintaining its own website.

Eagle Scout Leavitt provided project update, with his PowerPoint presentation, titled "Hosmer House Tour."

Discussed agenda items from the "Hosmer House Tour" PowerPoint included:

- Overview – installation of QR codes around the Hosmer House for information access
- QR codes on transportable stand
- Digitalization of Florence Hosmer Artwork
- Audio files to be utilized while touring the site
- Donations via website

Eagle Scout Leavitt presented visuals to be included on the Hosmer House website.

Ms. Warren commented that this was a wonderful project to have a website for the Hosmer House, there has been a need for this and that it would include audio. She commented that the house actually represented an art museum within a historic home. She suggested the main focus be the history of the house and also include Florence Hosmer's life and artwork, and family genealogy. Ms. Warren expressed some concern about including pictures of the artwork on the website, from a security perspective. She suggested photos/videos of some of the rooms, and perhaps three of Ms. Hosmer's paintings; and most importantly to stress the history of the house – who built the house, who lived there and the commercial use of the house.

Commissioners supported that photos of the rooms be included in the Eagle Scout's website's content. Mr. Hagger recommended a photo of the storeroom within the house be included on the website.

Ms. Warren also suggested that relevant textile photos be included on the website.

Ms. Cebra confirmed that these suggested areas for inclusion on the website, were included on the tour with the Leavitts. She also suggested inclusion of an audio chronology by resident Helen Casey, historian/poet.

Ms. Costa stated the creation of the Hosmer House history document was led by docent Barbara Wagner, which included narrative provided by several Hosmer House historians, including Lynn MacLean, and Liz Rodowsky. Helen Casey was involved with the write-up.

Ms. McGrath suggested including the agricultural aspects, with special consideration for the father of Ms. Hosmer.

Mr. Thompson commented that this website might be installed under the Town's Word Press platform format. He added that the Hosmer House website could be adjusted to portray a more museum-like look. Mr. Thompson mentioned the benefit of the Word Press editing feature. He recommended that Eagle Scout Leavitt meet with the web developer to further advance a plan to build the website.

Ms. Trexler appeared at the meeting sometime before or during discussion of this agenda item. No announcement of arrival time was made.

#### **Eversource 106 Review including 2/24 USACE Consultation Meeting**

Ms. Warren provided update, noting that the USACE meeting was scheduled for February 24. Ms. Warren stated that there has been no reply from USACE to the SHC letters of October 25, 2021 or January 14, 2022 adding that a letter from Paul M. Maniccia of USACE, was received today regarding the Corp group consultation meeting of March 4, 2022.

Ms. Warren detailed that she, Mr. Hagger, and Select Board Chair Roberts; had a conversation with Senator Markey's representative, Liam Horsman. She noted that Mr. Horsman stated he spoke with USACE regarding the Section 106 process, as well as an ongoing discussion with USACE regarding a site visit with the Narragansett tribe representative/s. She mentioned that a copy of the revised MOA would be sent by USACE before the February 24 meeting.

Ms. Warren suggested the Commission send a letter to USACE stating review of the revised MOA would be needed before the meeting took place.

#### **Historic Preservation Plan Update including 2/16 Forum**

Present: Peter Benton, Historic Preservation Consultant

Ms. Warren acknowledged that she, Mr. Hagger, and Mr. Benton met virtually with Jen Doherty of MHC (MA Historical Commission), about the Phase I work products and status of the project. She commented that Phase II of the HPP project process had begun which involves Mr. Benton's outreach to Town boards, commissions and committees, town staff and other stakeholders. A historic preservation survey would be released for a month. Ms. Warren stated that she, Mr. Hagger, and Fred Taylor (Historic Districts Commission) worked on the completion of that community survey with Mr. Benton. Ms. Warren announced that the first Historic Preservation Plan Forum would be taking place tomorrow evening, February 16.

Mr. Benton confirmed the community survey would be available shortly on Survey Monkey, and would be announced at tomorrow's Town Forum. He mentioned various aspects of the Forum, including preservation of Town buildings/landscape, and identification of ways that the historical character of the Town can be preserved.

Mr. Benton noted he will propose three questions at the Forum:

- How historical features contribute to life in Sudbury
- What people think are the most significant resources in Town
- What tools would residents like to see used to encourage preservation and appropriate treatment of historic resources

Mr. Benton confirmed that questions will be received after the Forum PowerPoint presentation. He stated he can answer questions to the best of his ability, as well as, asking Forum participants to send their questions to the SHC.

Ms. Warren stated the Forum will be recorded for future viewing.

Ms. Trexler suggested that invitations to the Forum be sent to individuals who have appeared before the SHC or before the SHDC (Sudbury Historical Districts Commission) within the last several years. Mr. Benton agreed.

Ms. Katz mentioned the "Town Crier" as a way to promote awareness regarding the Forum and the Survey. Mr. Benton recommended reviewing all advertising options with Mr. Duchesneau, Director of Planning and Community Development. Ms. Trexler mentioned the Town's FlashVote capability.

Mr. Benton detailed that he has been conducting informative conversations with Town historians. He said he has reached out to the Planning Board as well, and indicated such conversations would continue over the next several weeks.

### **Certified Local Government Program**

Mr. Hagger stated he shared the related PowerPoint presentation with the SHDC. He noted SHDC expressed interest in the Program, with the next steps including presentation to the Select Board, and the Town Manager.

Mr. Hagger motioned the SHC is supportive of the Town applying for the Certified Local Government Program, offered through the MHC. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: In supportive of the Town applying for the Certified Local Government Program, offered through the MHC

### **Hosmer House including attic materials and storage**

Ms. Cebra stated the roofing schedule had not been presented to date. She noted the condition of the basement and attic were fine.

### **Mass Historical Marker Rehabilitation**

Mr. Durall mentioned the historical markers in Town are in disrepair. He presented several examples; one being the Goodnow Garrison House sign. Mr. Hagger suggested that Mr. Durall contact Jen Doherty at MHC.

Ms. Warren acknowledged this issue had come before the Commission a couple of times in the last three to four years. She confirmed that the signs belong to the State, and were made in the 1920s and 1930s.

Ms. Trexler indicated MHC staff confirmed that MassDOT initiated sign repair on a town-by-town basis. Ms. Trexler confirmed markers in Concord and Wayland, had been restored.

Mr. Durall agreed to further research the status of Sudbury markers, and would contact Ms. Doherty for possible referral to MassDOT.

Mr. Hagger mentioned the stone markers were also in disrepair.

### **Sudbury Valley Trustees Barton Barns**

Mr. Hagger explained an e-mail was sent to SHC from the Sudbury Valley Trustees, regarding a preservation restriction/s at the Barton Barns. Ms. O'Brien of the Sudbury Valley Trustees indicated she would be present at a future SHC meeting in March, regarding the existing restriction/s.

Ms. Costa recognized that the preservation restrictions had been in place for many years, and wanted to understand the SHC's responsibility/obligation regarding such restriction/s.

Mr. Greene agreed to research the history and prior purposing of the barns. Ms. Costa agreed to research the site with Mr. Greene.

Ms. Warren provided details regarding preservation restriction placed on structures and confirmed the preservation restriction was deeded in perpetuity. She asked that the Commission request a copy of the deed to review it.

### **Historic House Marker Program**

Ms. Katz stated she found three companies that produced house markers, and would be able to use the signage prototype currently displayed in Sudbury. She stated Tim Kearns has acquired the assets of the previous sign maker, Bob Leonard.

Ms. Katz confirmed she was awaiting pricing/estimates, which would include description of proposed sign materials to be used.

Ms. Katz agreed to present all responses to the Commission.

### **SHC Finance Reports and SHC Budget for FY23**

Ms. Costa reviewed the SHC TY23 Budget and Finance Reports.

Related discussion took place.

Ms. Costa explained purchases for the Hosmer House, will go through the Planning Department.

Mr. Hagger mentioned copying of the Inventories report might be possible at this time. Ms. Costa agreed.

Mr. Greene mentioned the \$700 charge for re-installing the gravestone in the Hearse House.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve up to \$850.00 for the printing of spiral-bound hard copies of the recent Inventories. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye

**Date for next meeting(s)**

March 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM