



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Chris Durall, Kathryn McGrath

Absent: Jan Costa, Marjorie Katz

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry, Community Preservation Coordinator Ryan Poteat

Mr. Hagger opened the Historical Commission meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Mr. Hagger-present, Ms. Cebra-present, Mr. Durall present, Ms. McGrath-present, Ms. Warren-present

Approval of January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Review of Historical Commission Minutes for 1/17/23 was tabled to the next meeting of the Historical Commission.

196 North Road under the Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw

Present: Owner Brea Brennan, 196 North Road

Mr. Hagger explained that the demolition plans for 196 North Road had not been submitted to the Commission, and were due 60 days after historical significance was determined.

Ms. Brennan inquired about the modifications which could be made.

Mr. Hagger explained that a full demolition application needed to be submitted before the Commission could offer recommendations.

Ms. Warren expressed her support of CPA funding for property owners renovating their historical dwellings.

Ms. Warren suggested the applicant present a preliminary plan, outlining plans reflecting a formal demolition plan.

Mr. Hagger confirmed the applicant needed to submit demolition plans, before the Commission could consider any changes to be made at the property.

Mr. Hagger motioned to extend the Demolition delay period for 196 North Road to reflect an additional 30-day extension, allowing the applicant to file the demolition plans. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Cebra-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Durall-aye, Hagger-aye.

Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project including Retention of Portions of Bridges 127/128

Mr. Hagger detailed the agreement with Eversource, including the preservation of stones from Bridge 128. Mr. Hagger mentioned the preservation of a portion of the bridge girder from Bridge 127, and saving of additional rails.

Ms. Warren provided comments regarding the related memo from Eversource.

Ms. Warren left the meeting at 7:00 PM, to be able to participate in another meeting.

Invitation to Consult on Mass Central Rail Trail – Interpretive Signage Development

Ms. McGrath reported that there were no new status updates regarding interpretive signage.

Hosmer House including Roof and Gutter Replacement Project, Window Restorations, Open Houses

Mr. Hagger updated the Commissioners on repairs at the Hosmer House. He stated the Sudbury Historic District Commission agreed with the Sudbury Historical Commission regarding construction materials to be used at the Hosmer House.

Mr. Hagger reported the Facilities Director Sandra Duran will focus on the needed Hosmer House repairs after Town Meeting.

Ms. Warren returned to the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Ms. Cebra reported that the Valentine's Day Hosmer House Open House was well attended. Ms. McGrath noted that artifacts were on display at the Valentine's Day Open House.

Ms. Cebra highlighted upcoming events scheduled for the Hosmer House, including a retirement gathering for teachers. Mr. Durall inquired about cleanup costs after the retirement event.

Ms. Cebra stated Florence Hosmer was a teacher who wanted to make her house available to women's groups in Town.

Historic Preservation Plan

Present: Resident/Sudbury Weekly Newsletter Publisher Kevin Lahaise, 195 Horse Pond Road,
Resident/Select Board Member Janie Dretler, 286 Goodman's Hill Road

Mr. Hagger summarized the Q&A format of the Sudbury Weekly Newsletter, which has been publishing coverage of other Sudbury boards/commissions/committees.

Ms. Warren indicated her concern about using a private citizens newsletter to publicize Commission topics.

Ms. McGrath endorsed coverage by the Sudbury Weekly Newsletter.

Mr. Durall opined that the same published materials, could also be included on the Town website. He reported that he received daily updates from the Sudbury Patch. Ms. Warren stated the Sudbury Patch is published by the owners of Metro-West Newspaper.

Mr. Lahaise stated that Sudbury is covered by one Sudbury Patch reporter only; compared to coverage by the Sudbury Weekly, which has one main writer, augmented by different contributors.

Ms. Dretler stated local municipalities have difficulties getting information out to the taxpayers; she listed neighboring towns who have their own newsletters.

Mr. Durall inquired about ownership of the printed article/s. Mr. Lahaise confirmed that he uses this communication vehicle to disseminate information, which might otherwise be difficult to access.

Mr. Hagger motioned to accept questions from Kevin Lahaise, editor of the Sudbury Weekly, regarding the Historic Preservation Plan, with answers to be formulated and approved by the Historic Commission for publication with a Q&A format in the Sudbury Weekly Newsletter. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 3-2; McGrath-aye, Cebra-no, Durall-aye, Warren-no, Hagger-aye.

Historic Commission Applications Approved by the Community Preservation Committee - Next Steps

Commissioners discussed updates regarding the proposed Historic Commission CPC Articles which required Town Meeting approval.

Research on Slavery in Colonial Sudbury

Ms. Cebra reported that the Historical Society had not yet made a decision about continuing research regarding Slavery in Colonial Sudbury.

Ms. Warren commented that the Commissioners charge under MGL Chapter 40 8D was for the protection and preservation of historic resources and while research about slavery in Sudbury is important it is in the area of researching for the purpose of writing history rather than the task of historic preservation advocacy.

Related discussion took place.

Certified Local Government

Mr. Hagger reported that one of the requirements of the Certified Local Government included that the Sudbury Historical Commission meet with the Sudbury Historical Society.

Ms. Warren suggested the Commission hold a separate goal-setting meeting. She recommended the Commission review Salem's new Design Review Guidelines.

Historical Commission Finance Reports

Mr. Hagger led discussion on possible uses for the remaining SHC funding for FY23.

Conflict of Interest Training

Mr. Hagger provided detail regarding the Conflict of Interest Training offering, and encouraged all Commission Members to complete the course/training.

Recommended Archaeology

Ms. McGrath commented on the need to develop a procedure for review of all future Town building projects, which might impact historic properties or archeology sites.

Ms. Warren affirmed the Indigenous Landscape Study was needed in order to alert the Commission if such proposed projects would disturb historic areas.

Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Hagger stated the next meeting of the Historical Commission was scheduled for March 21, 2022.

Mr. Hagger reported the Commission had received an application from a Historical Commission candidate to occupy an open seat on the Commission.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Historical Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Durall. It was on motion 5-0; McGrath-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye.

The meeting of the Historical Commission was adjourned at 9:27 PM.