



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2020

THOMPSON ROOM, FLYNN BUILDING, 278 OLD SUDBURY ROAD, SUDBURY, MA

Members Present: Diana Warren, Steve Greene, Diana Cebra, Fred Bautze, Taryn Trexler (late), and Chris Hagger (remotely)

Members Absent: Margi Katz

Others Present: Ann Stone, Mike Lynch, Quentin Nowland, Mike Riley, Chuck Mills, Debbie Dineen, and Pat Brown

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Meeting Minute Note Taking: The Commission re-visited the issue of hiring a professional meeting minute note taker. According to the Town Planner, Adam Duchesneau, after consulting with the Interim Town Manager, it is permissible for the Historical Commission (HC) to use HC General Fund monies to retain a note taker. A note taker that is providing the service for another town board takes seven hours to write the minutes for a three hour meeting at a cost of approximately \$160.

After discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (5-0): that the HC through facilitation by the Director of Planning and Community Development, Adam Duchesneau, hire a minute meeting note taker to prepare meeting minutes for the HC meetings and hearings.

554 Boston Post Road: There are two legal tracks that the 554 Boston Post Road development project is subject to: one is the Demolition Delay Bylaw and the other is the Planning Board Site Plan Review Decision, specifically Provision #24. The six month demolition delay for both the circa 1850 red barn with shed and the circa 1730 farmhouse expires March 17, 2020. Under provision #24, the HC must have access to the farmhouse before a Demolition Permit may be issued. However, the barn with sheds is not subject to #24 and therefore a Demolition Permit may be issued any time from March 17, 2020. Ms. Warren stated that it is the responsibility of the HC to advocate for the preservation and protection of Sudbury's historical assets. She suggested that the commission send a letter to the owner and developer respectively requesting that prior to demolition that the interior and exterior of the structure be photographed and if possible videoed, and that these records be gifted to the HC and the Sudbury Historical Society.

A draft of the letter was reviewed by the members and was discussed. Mr. Hagger questioned if a letter should be sent and if the parties were asked if they would agree to the request. During the meeting Ms. Warren asked the parties twice for comments but no comments were made.

Ms. Cebra commented that the letter is just offering a request. Mr. Greene stated it was a good tight letter and agreed with sending a request. Mr. Bautze stated the letter the HC would be sending would be setting a precedent making this type of request in this circumstance so that in the future we would be making a request especially when looking at a demolition of this type. He further stated he thought we want to send the letter with the cc's listed as well as add the Select Board.

Following the discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved 4-1 that the HC send the letter to the owner and developer making the request. Mr. Hagger commented that he voted no not because he did not believe the HC should make the request, but because he did not think the request needs to be formalized in a letter.

The meeting was adjourned. The next HC meeting will be March 24, 2020.