



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Taryn Trexler, Jan Costa, Marjorie Katz, Steve Greene, Fred Bautze

Others Present:

Stacy Spies, Historical Preservation Consultant; Rick Conard, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission; Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Rick Concord, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission; Nick Pernice

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Mr. Hagger stated that he recently walked the Wayland rail trail towards the Weston town line and observed that the overhead transmission lines were present along the rail trail. He indicated that the overhead lines were very noticeable and maintained that Sudbury had more railway artifacts when compared to Wayland and Weston. Mr. Hagger opined that the proposed underground transmission lines may require less clear-cutting when compared to overhead lines.

Ms. Warren opined that she understood that there would be additional clear-cutting when preparing for an underground transmission line proposed for Sudbury.

Eversource – Transmission Line Project

Ms. Spies presented additions made to the “Existing RR Features and Proposed Impacts as of January 5, 2021” document. She detailed that she included additional mapping points to the document and context regarding features, such as the battery wells and related schematics. Ms. Spies stated that she added a criterion “D” on the National Register Criteria Statement for eligibility for listing in the National Register.

Mr. Hagger asked if the names of crossroads could be included in the documentation. Ms. Spies agreed to do so.

Commissioners complemented Ms. Spies on the detail included in the Eligibility Statement and the “Existing RR Features and Proposed Impacts as of January 5, 2021” document.

Ms. Trexler asked who owned the Sudbury Depot and inquired about the recent painting of the markers. Mr. Conard explained that Dan Patterson, a Wayland railway volunteer, provided authentic railroad lettering and painted the markers.

Ms. Spiers referred to the section of the document which included VHB and Heritage responses as well as disposition of features per Eversource plans. She stressed that culverts and other important features were not included in the Eversource plans. Ms. Spiers noted that the document would evolve and become further refined with time.

Discussion regarding line items within the “Existing RR Features and Proposed Impacts as of January 5, 2021,” document took place. Ms. Warren recommended that the Sudbury Historical Commission (SHC) review every feature item on the document with close attention to the action plan recommended by Eversource. She recommended that the document be submitted to MHC as well.

Ms. Spiers recommended that specific plan/s be implemented regarding features that would be removed from the ground and re-installed.

Ms. Spiers agreed to participate in the next Commission meeting on January 19th and would further refine the spread sheet document.

Ms. Warren suggested that the MBTA might consider donating the Section Tool House to the Town or provide renovation of the structure.

Ms. Warren provided an update regarding the Eversource 106 process. She mentioned that other than one tribe contacted in July 2020, some tribes were last contacted by Eversource in 2018. She confirmed that since the last meeting, she had a conversation with the Narragansett THPO, Mr. John Brown. Mr. Brown indicated that he had never heard about the project until Sudbury resident, Nick Pernice, told him about the project.

Ms. Warren stated that Mr. Brown recently contacted the Army Corps of Engineers and the Advisory Council in Washington, DC, to alert them that he had not been informed about the project or been part of the 106 consultation process. Ms. Warren suggested that at some point the SHC invite Mr. Brown to a meeting of the Commissioners.

Ms. Warren confirmed that she and Mr. Hagger sent a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers stating that the Narragansett THPO had not been consulted. Ms. Warren noted that the Army Corps of Engineers sent the SHC a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) drafted by Eversource. She detailed there were references to specific statutes in that MOA. Ms. Warren stated that she and Mr. Hagger submitted a formal request to the Army Corps of Engineers for a copy of the documentation referenced in the Eversource draft MOA.

Ms. Warren spoke about how the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is involved with Section 106 and that a letter had been sent to the ACHP requesting that the Council agree to become a consulting party in the Eversource project 106 process with regard to procedural matters.

Ms. Warren referred to questions she asked Eversource and DCR representatives at the last HC meeting. Ms. Warren stated that the Eversource project manager confirmed that the mitigation plan was Eversource’s and not DCR’s, and that the DCR representative stated that Eversource would not be creating a mitigation plan as had been recommended by the MHC in its December 18, 2019 letter to the Army Corps.

Ms. Warren mentioned archeological considerations under Section 106, which involved native resources.

Ms. Warren addressed the invoices submitted by Ms. Spies and suggested the Commissioners vote to issue payment to Ms. Spies. Ms. Warren indicated that Ms. Spies did an excellent job and provided extra assistance.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve payment of the invoice from Stacy Spies in the total amount of \$2,995.00 for work provided. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve payment of the invoice from Stacy Spies in the total amount of \$2,995.00 for work provided.

Ms. Warren asked the Commissioners to consider extending the consulting services by Ms. Spies in a block of 500 consulting hours to continue with work regarding Section 106 consultation concerning the Eversource Transmission line/DCR projects and historical Central Mass RR historic district and related rail features.

Ms. Trexler suggested that the Commission request Eversource to provide related mitigation plans.

Resident Nick Pernice maintained that the proposed Eversource Transmission Line project was destructive and would affect a considerable amount of conservation and historic district land in Sudbury.

Mr. Hagger summarized aspects of an email sent to him from Paul Jahnige of DCR (MA Department of Conservation and Recreation), which asked if the HC would meet separately with Mr. Jahnige and discuss highlighting the railway features of important historical significance. Mr. Hagger asked the Commissioners if they wished to invite Mr. Jahnige to attend a future SHC meeting to discuss railway features. Ms. Warren indicated that Section 106 likely did not apply to DCR, therefore she questioned whether such a meeting would be beneficial.

The Commissioners concurred that a meeting with Mr. Jahnige would be a good idea, if Section 106 did apply to DCR. Mr. Hagger stated that such determination could be clarified by Town Counsel. Ms. Warren stated that the better source for such determination would be the Army Corp of Engineers and the Advisory Council who actually make that determination.

Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Grant for Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Warren provided update and acknowledged that the SHC pre-application for a MHC grant was approved and the HC had been invited to submit a full application to MHC by February 8, 2021. The Commissioners acknowledged that Ms. Warren moved this plan forward with her hard work and dedication.

Sudbury Historical Commission fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Ms. Costa presented the draft summary for the FY 2022 Budget.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the fiscal Year 2022 Budget for \$7,800 as detailed in the presented forms, with amendment of form #6 by Vice-Chair Dianna Warren. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Warren-aye, Cebra-aye, Greene-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve the fiscal Year 2022 Budget for \$7,800 as detailed in the presented forms, with amendment of form #6 by Vice-Chair Dianna Warren.

Mr. Hagger asked that a Commission member identify bonded contractors who would be qualified to clean the Hosmer House. Ms. Cebra offered to present such contractor profiles to the Commission.

Approval of November 9, 2020 and November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Warren-aye, Cebra-aye, Greene-aye, Bautze-aye

VOTED: To approve the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Warren-aye, Cebra-aye, Greene-aye, Bautze-aye

VOTED: To approve the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes

Date for Next Meeting(s):

January 19, 2021

Adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Greene-aye, Warren-aye, Bautze-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 PM