



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 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:

Rick Concord, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission; Paul Jahnige of MA DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation); Jeffrey Harris, DCR; Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Nick Pernice; Rebecca Cutting

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Eversource – Transmission Line Project

Mr. Hagger stated that he walked the Rail Trail from the Wayland line through Weston. He noted that two small bridges were left in place, and detailed that the bridges were once part of the cattle pass areas. Mr. Hagger acknowledged that the Historical Commissions of Wayland and Weston advocated for the preservation of the cattle passes.

Mr. Conard noted that Eversource wanted to eliminate the cattle pass areas, but MA Historical Commission (MHC) helped to preserve the features.

Ms. Warren stated the cultural resources consultant, Stacy Spies, would be submitting the revised version of the Central MA Railroad Area Inventory – one with Eversource references, and one version without such Eversource references.

Ms. Warren commented that the Commission had not received responses to questions they asked Eversource at the HC meeting on December 15, 2020. Ms. Warren added that she and Mr. Hagger would be including those questions in a letter to Eversource, and a second letter would be sent to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to request that the Council agree to become a consulting party in the Eversource project. She stated that – as had been discussed at a prior HC meeting - the finalized Inventory Area Form and National Register Criteria Statement for the Central Mass Railroad corridor would be submitted to the MHC.

Ms. Trexler asked if Mr. Jahnige could provide the Commission with other rail trail 106 comment letters from other MA towns. Mr. Jahnige suggested that the Commissioners review a comment letter submitted

by the Town of Hudson approximately a year ago. He added that in his experience, there was no other Section 106 comment letters, specific to a rail trail project.

Mr. Hagger asked Mr. Jahnige if might consider meeting with the Commission in the future to review the items of significant historical and cultural significance. Mr. Jahnige responded in the affirmative and stressed the importance of scheduling that meeting shortly, in consideration of the project permitting process.

Mr. Hagger asked why DCR felt that preserving the Section Tool House would be difficult. Mr. Jahnige noted that wetland resources were not a consideration in Weston, and it was possible to design the trail in a way that could bypass those features, based on the terrain. Mr. Jahnige maintained that the plans were shifted somewhat in order to move the trail further away from the Section House, and avoid the loading platform. Mr. Greene suggested modification to the rail trail to retain the location of the Section House, rails and loading area.

Mr. Jahnige stated that he would provide additional Section 106 comment letters to the Commission.

Ms. Cebra stressed that the treatment of the Section Tool House was extremely important and should be preserved.

Mr. Greene suggested that the plan and treatment of the Section Tool House be looked at again to move the project more to the west and leave two 32 foot sections of rail to preserve the setting of the House. He stated that it was essential for preservation to leave the embedded rail bed in one place in Sudbury without removing ties and rails to preserve the way it was for future generations.

Ms. Warren commented that the SHC should have been notified of the railway design earlier in the process.

Resident Rebecca Cutting confirmed that her comments within the 2017 and 2018 environmental report emphasized that the Section Tool House should be considered under MEPA (MA Environmental Protection Act) and the applicant was directed to examine this aspect further. She asked if DCR would be party to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). Mr. Jahnige responded affirmatively.

Resident Nick Pernice asked about the extensive digging proposed around the railbed. Mr. Jahnige stated he had not been involved with such extensive digging along a project railbed. Mr. Hagger commented that such question could be asked of Eversource, as well.

Mr. Pernice asked if Mr. Jahnige had been involved with rebuilding or rehabilitation of bridges on other trail projects. Mr. Jahnige responded in the affirmative and provided process detail.

Ms. Warren asked Mr. Jahnige if any of DCR's construction during Phase II of the project resulted in discharge/fill into the Hopp Brook and he replied he did not think so. Mr. Jahnige commented that all construction work that relates to bridges 127 and 128 and removal of the tracks will be done by Eversource. Ms. Warren asked the DCR representative, Mr. Jahnige, questions about what laws the DCR project was subject to: was DCR subject to the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection and Sanctuaries Act. Mr. Jahnige responded that to his knowledge DCR was not subject to the Rivers Act or Marine Act but did not have a clear answer about the Clean Water Act.

Ms. Warren asked if Eversource and DCR had drafted a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Jahnige responded affirmatively, noting that the Memorandum had not been finalized yet. He added the Memorandum would likely be finalized when all permitting is obtained.

Mr. Greene stated that the landscape will be disturbed by Eversource in Phase I. Ms. Warren commented that it is Eversource - not DCR - that will be installing the transmission line in Phase I that will impact all the historic RR corridor and RR features and whether the line can be installed without destroying the bridges and impacting the RR resources. Mr. Jahnige said he would look forward to meeting again with the Commissioners.

2020 SHC Annual Report

Commissioners provided edits to the “2020 SHC Annual Report” document.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the “2020 SHC Annual Report,” with changes as discussed; in addition, to further change which Chair Hagger would make with input from Vice-Chair Warren.

VOTED: To approve the “2020 SHC Annual Report,” with changes as discussed; in addition, to further change which Chair Hagger would make with input from Vice-Chair Warren.

Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Warren stated that the MHC had invited the SHC to proceed with the next step in the grant application process, to submit a full application. She detailed that she was working on the application, which had to be submitted to MHC by the first week in February.

Sudbury Historic Property Survey

Ms. Trexler summarized that two experienced consultants who had completed related projects in the Boston area, were selected to work on the Sudbury Historic Property Survey project.

Ms. Trexler explained that the consultants would come before the Commission to review the property list. Mr. Hagger spoke of the phasing aspect associated with the survey project.

Ms. Warren noted that the survey project would be a Town-wide historic property survey. She asked if the Commissioners would have input on the list of properties to be surveyed.. Ms. Trexler responded that the Commission had submitted significant survey input previously, and the consultants would be very inclusive in their survey reports. Ms. Katz indicated that she was comfortable with Mr. Hagger and Ms. Trexler providing the initial direction for the consultants. Ms. Katz commented if an issue should arise, then the Commissioners could become involved. Ms. Costa agreed with Ms. Katz and noted that Mr. Hagger and Ms. Trexler would be providing updates for the Commission. Ms. Cebra agreed, and indicated that she was looking forward to updates. Mr. Bautze stated he would be looking forward to receiving updates from Mr. Hagger and Ms. Trexler.

Ms. Warren stated that she was happy that the project would soon begin and opined if the consultants might be able to ask for interior property photos. Ms. Trexler responded that she would inquire about inclusion of such photos. Mr. Hagger noted that the consultants have extensive historic property experience.

Ms. Costa suggested that the surveys might be cataloged in a digital format after the project is completed. Ms. Trexler agreed. Mr. Greene suggested that such formatting might have legal implications.

Hosmer House Cleaning

Mr. Hagger spoke of the \$2,000 budget for the cleaning of the Hosmer House. Ms. Cebra noted that the Hosmer House is not in bad condition and likely would not require a heavy cleaning. She noted that the Hosmer House might possibly open in April, and at that time cleaning might be considered.

Mr. Hagger suggested that Ms. Cebra provide three names of cleaners to the Facilities Director Bill Barletta, as soon as possible.

2021 Goals

Mr. Hagger acknowledged that the 2021 Goals suggested by the Commissioners one year ago, were not advanced due to COVID-19. He provided a listing of the previously mentioned 2021 goal with hopes that they might be addressed in the spring:

- Town Cemetery – Ms. Katz mentioned that the contract was signed for the Wadsworth Cemetery and the contract for Revolutionary War Cemetery were sent out.
- Demo Delay Website – Ms. Costa stated that she completed the document and would adjust it slightly and then work on the website. Mr. Hagger confirmed that the Demo Delay document and website would be discussed at the next SHC meeting in February.
- Inventories – Ms. Trexler advanced the project, which would go forward with the two consultants, as discussed.
- Historic Preservation Plan – Ms. Warren had advanced the project and was submitting the full application to MHC.
- Carding Mill – Mr. Hagger stated that he had gathered volunteers from the Conservation Commission and the Historic Districts Commission to evaluate preservation/restoration options for the Carding Mill. He suggested that later this year, he would meet with volunteers.
- Section House and the Hearse House had been examined by Mr. Greene, particularly in regard to the Eversource project. Mr. Greene affirmed that he would continue his work on these projects.
- Hosmer House – Ms. Cebra and Ms. Katz will hopefully be able to plan events later in the year, in consideration of the COVID-19.

Ms. Cebra indicated that she wanted to revive the fairy garden at the Hosmer House, as well as creating a Victorian kitchen garden on the site.

Ms. Cebra announced the passing of Sudbury resident, Ellen Morgan who was a docent at the Hosmer House.

Ms. Costa spoke of the Treasurer's function. Mr. Hagger stated that Ms. Costa provides great financial assistance for SHC.

Ms. Warren detailed her participation with CPC on behalf of the SHC. Mr. Hagger stated that Ms. Warren's work with the CPC reflected much time and effort.

Approval of December 7, 2020; December 10, 2020; and December 15, 2020 meeting minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve the December 10, 2020 minutes.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the December 7, 2020 minutes. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve the December 7, 2020 minutes.

Mr. Hagger noted that the minutes for December 15, 2020 would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Date for Next Meeting(s)

Mr. Hagger noted that the next SHC meeting would take place on February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Warren addressed the invoices from Ms. Spies and suggested that Ms. Spies provide additional consulting hours for the Commission. Ms. Costa reviewed the SHC budget.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve an additional \$500.00 for consulting services from Stacy Spies. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Trexler-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve an additional \$500.00 for consulting services from Stacy Spies.

Mr. Hagger mentioned that the Town Clerk issued a memo notifying Commissioners that a Conflict of Interest and Ethics Training must be completed by Commissioners.

Adjourn

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.