



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

MAY 12, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Jan Costa, Steve Greene

Absent: Diana Cebra, Taryn Trexler, Marjorie Katz

Others Present: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant; Rick Concord, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission; Planning & Community Development Director Adam Duchesneau

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 10:00 PM. Mr. Hagger requested Sudbury Historic Commission (SHC) roll call: Warren-present, Hagger-present, Costa-present, Greene-present

Eversource – Transmission Line Project.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that this SHC meeting would focus on the draft letter to the MA Historical Commission (MHC) regarding the Eversource Transmission Line Project.

Ms. Warren provided a related status update, and explained that the Commission received a letter from the Army Corp of Engineers dated April 21, 2021. The letter received from the Army Corps asked the Commission to provide comments regarding the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), (included in the Corp. April 21 letter) by May 21, 2021. The same letter was circulated to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the Hudson Historical Commission, and MHC. Ms. Warren noted the MHC would also be commenting on the MOA.

Ms. Warren informed the Commission that a letter from Advisory Council was received on April 30, 2021. She noted that the Advisory Council letter rebuked the handling of Section 106 by the Army Corp, which was deficient in numerous aspects; with lack of consultation with the Tribes, MHC and consulting parties. The letter affirmed that the process must begin anew with steps 1 and 2 including how adverse effects might be resolved. The Advisory Council also affirmed that the Army Corp never submitted Appendices regarding the implementation of the Section 106 regulations.

Ms. Warren emphasized the importance of finalizing the letter to MHC, and ensuring the letter be received by MHC tomorrow (May 13) to provide MHC a week to formulate their comments as well, in consideration of the May 21st deadline.

Ms. Warren stated that the Army Corp had determined that only Bridge 127 was in its permit area according to the Corps adopted regulation Appendix C which has never been recognized or approved by the Advisory Council.

Mr. Hagger referenced the letter to now be edited by the Commission members, as addressed to Ms. Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer at MHC, and drafted by Ms. Spies and the Commissioners.

Ms. Costa suggested highlighting the sections included in the drafted letter to MHC:

Identification of Historic Properties

Assessing Effects and Legal Standing

Concerns about Inadequate Stipulations in Draft MOA

Conclusion

Ms. Costa maintained that a more comprehensive MOA must be verbalized clearly and comprehensively. However, Ms. Warren stated, and Ms. Spies concurred, that Section 106 MOAs were sparse documents that did not have to define terms in Section 106 of the ACHP and implementing regulations.

Commission members edited and amended all sections of the letter to MHC.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the letter as amended at today's meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0; Warren-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Greene-aye

Ms. Spies commended the SHC members for their expert handling of the Section 106 review. Ms. Warren commented on the level of complexity of this Section 106 review and the involvement of Advisory Council in this undertaking.

Date for Next Meeting(s)

Mr. Hagger stated that the next meeting would be held on May 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Other Business

Mr. Hagger stated that another demolition delay application would be considered for 26 Franklin Place. Board members discussed the timing for the site visit to the property.

Mr. Hagger motioned to allot an additional \$500.00 from the Town budget for the continued Section 106 consultation provided by Stacy Spies. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0; Costa-aye, Warren-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye

Adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hagger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0; Costa-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Hagger-aye

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 a.m.