



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Jan Costa, Diana Cebra, Steve Greene, Taryn Trexler, Marjorie Katz, Rick Concord, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission

Others Present: Beth Perry, Planning and Community Development Coordinator; Adam Duchesneau, Planning and Community Development Director

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting of the Sudbury Historical Commission at 6:47 P.M. Mr. Hagger requested Commissioners roll call: Cebra-present, Hagger-present, Costa-present, Trexler-present, Greene-present, Warren-present, Katz-present

Historical Commission Alternate Appointments – Kathryn McGrath

Ms. McGrath shared her background with the Commissioners. Mr. Greene asked Ms. McGrath about her related interests. Ms. McGrath stressed her special interest in the railroad and its history.

Ms. Cebra asked if Ms. McGrath had been reviewing Commission meetings. Ms. McGrath responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hagger confirmed that both Ms. McGrath and Mr. Pernice had participated in Historical Commission meetings. Ms. Costa asked Ms. McGrath her opinion about the 6 month demolition delay and her response was that 6 months was very short and mentioned the use of 18 month and two year delays.

Ms. Costa asked Ms. McGrath her thoughts about working with varying interpersonal dynamics in various Commission discussions, such as demolition delay bylaw discussions, and asked Ms. McGrath what she might suggest to advance common goals within the process. Ms. McGrath confirmed that she had considerable experience in this area, and always to objective and advance many of the intangible aspects involved in the demolition delay process.

Ms. Warren welcomed Ms. McGrath to the meeting and thanked her for her application. Ms. Warren asked Ms. McGrath if she would support an initiative with Native Tribes for preservation of archaeological resources – a memo of intent and also support the creation of a Community-wide Archaeological Reconnaissance Plan for Sudbury. Ms. McGrath confirmed she would support the plan and would like to know more about the MOI. Ms. Warren described the charge of the Historical Commission under M.G.L. and asked Ms. McGrath what she saw as the Commission's role is under the statute. Ms. McGrath stressed that role included preservation, stewardship and management

Ms. Warren asked Ms. McGrath her thoughts about the Sudbury Preservation Plan. Ms. McGrath answered study of the new Master Plan would be fundamental, as well as examination of resources before further development took place in Sudbury.

Mr. Greene asked Ms. McGrath's interests were and what she would be interested in participating.

Mr. Hagger commented on her archaeology background and experience, and said Ms. McGrath would be a great asset to the Commission.

Mr. Hagger suggested Ms. McGrath visit the Hosmer House, and asked if she might have interest in showcasing the Hosmer House when it opens. Ms. McGrath responded she had interest in participating at the Hosmer House.

Mr. Hagger stated that the alternate members could vote when a quorum is needed.

Historical Commission Alternate Appointments – Nick Pernice

Mr. Nick Pernice explained his background and stated he had been following the Historical Commission meetings for some time. He stated he had developed his interest in Sudbury history growing up in town, as a student in the Sudbury Public School system and referenced his childhood experiences celebrating April 19 all kindling his love of history. He mentioned that he has taught Art History.

Ms. Costa thanked Mr. Pernice for his contribution at Historical Commission meetings. She asked for his thoughts on the work of the Commission and specifically regarding the Demolition Delay Bylaw, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and the proposed Eversource Transmission Line. Mr. Pernice spoke about the related regulations and his feeling about the importance of the Sudbury Historical Commission's work and advocacy. He mentioned his intense curiosity about historical homes and structures.

Ms. Trexler acknowledged that Ms. McGrath and Mr. Pernice had been involved with issues of importance to the Commission. She emphasized the importance of treating all residents fairly and consistently. Mr. Pernice added that listening to people was especially important.

Mr. Hagger asked Mr. Pernice what aspects of the Commission's work he is interested in. Mr. Pernice responded his interest was to serve the Commission and topics including the revolutionary war headstones, the Historic Properties Survey topic, the railroad inventory, the Eversource Transmission Line project, the Haynes Garrison property, and whatever topic was being considered by the Commission. He stated he wants to be of service to the town he loves.

Ms. Warren welcomed and thanked Mr. Pernice for applying. She noted Mr. Pernice's attendance at meetings for over a year and his efforts reaching out to the tribes, and his useful comments at Commission meetings. She asked Mr. Pernice's opinion about an Archaeological Reconnaissance Plan for Sudbury and a Memorandum of Intent with Native tribes. Mr. Pernice responded that he supported both initiatives and talked about their importance. He mentioned the sacred landscapes in Concord and a focus on Sudbury's archaeological resources may be worth taking a look at. He mentioned the need for educational efforts.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission recommend the appointment of Kathryn McGrath, as alternate Member of the Sudbury Historical Commission. Ms. Costa seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: That the Sudbury Historical Commission recommend the appointment of Kathryn McGrath, as alternate Member of the Sudbury Historical Commission.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission recommend the appointment of Nick Pernice, as alternate member of the Sudbury Historical Commission. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was 5-2; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-no, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-no

VOTED: That the Sudbury Historical Commission recommend the appointment of Nick Pernice, as alternate member of the Sudbury Historical Commission.

Ms. Trexler expressed concern that Mr. Pernice would not consider all residents in the same manner.

Ms. Warren expressed her full support of Mr. Pernice, that he would be valuable member of the SHC, had a deep knowledge of Sudbury, and is passionate about the historic preservation of the Town.

Mr. Hagger mentioned that both applicants had attended numerous meetings, staying until the end of meetings and assume they have acquired a familiarity with the Commission's work.

Approval of May 12th, 17th, 18th and 25th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2021, Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the May 12, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To approve the May 12, 2021, meeting minutes

May 17, 2021, Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the May 17, 2021, meeting minutes. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To approve the May 17, 2021, meeting minutes

May 18, 2021, Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the May 18, 2021, meeting minutes. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To approve the May 18, 2021, meeting minutes

May 25, 2021, Minutes

Ms. Costa provided several edits.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the May 25, 2021, meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To approve the May 25, 2021, meeting minutes, as amended

Historic House Markers

Ms. Katz commented about next steps regarding the issuance of Historic House Markers in Sudbury. Ms. Warren referred to Robert Leonard, who had been crafting house markers for Sudbury and other communities, for many years. She noted that Mr. Leonard confirmed that the 14" x 17" marker/signage cost \$75.00; and would be of sufficient size to include all required lettering: the name and date. She stated that the sign would be the previously approved shape/design, wood, painted white with black lettering with predrilled holes for mounting and screws or nails.

Ms. Warren stated that three properties were awaiting house markers; two properties on Concord Road, and on one Hudson Road.

Ms. Warren explained the Historic House Marker Program regulations regarding sign, adding that she and Ms. Katz are compiling a list of the structures that currently have a historic house markers.

Ms. Warren stated she is drafting a new Historic House Marker Program brochure for property owners of historic properties to learn about and consider the program. She stated the application needed updating. She had researched various marker programs in different communities in the State and stated that the MA Historical Commission maintained that house marker programs aid in preservation education. Ms. Warren mentioned she was considering inclusion of photographs in the brochure of current properties with markers.

Mr. Hagger asked of the listing could be included on the Historic Commission website, to include a photo collage, and links to the proposed flyer/booklet. He suggested that the Historic House Marker application could be available at the Historic Society, and at the Goodnow Library. Ms. Warren confirmed that she and Ms. Katz would continue work on such a database. Ms. Katz acknowledged that all applications would be verified before house markers would be granted.

Ms. Warren confirmed that the three properties presently being considered are historic and qualified for a house marker. However, these historic district properties and all properties in historic districts will be required to first obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of the location of the marker before a sign may be ordered.

Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Warren confirmed that the Historic Preservation Plan process with the MA Historical Commission (MHC) had commenced. She stated that the A-133 Audit, and Town Manager's letter accepting the MHC grant had also been submitted to MHC.

Ms. Warren stated she submitted the RFQ draft list-serv announcement and Scope of Work draft for MHC review and approval. She commented that the SOW draft was MHC's standard approved wording,

had been reviewed by MHC and the draft emailed to the HC members was the reviewed SOW. Ms. Warren asked for comments on the draft.

Mr. Hagger agreed the draft was comprehensive. Ms. Trexler suggested that the document include mention of the Planning Board as stakeholder under Phase I. Ms. Warren said she would ask for MHC feedback and guidance on this point.

Ms. Costa recognized the mention should be included, in consideration that the Planning Board is important to the efforts of the Sudbury Historic Commission (SHC).

Eversource – Transmission Line Project/DCR Response Letter –

Ms. Warren commented that she had not heard from MHC or the Army Corps of Engineers, and has asked the Planning Department to check the HC mailbox for any correspondence. She explained that MHC continues to work virtually and that she has not received a response to her inquires.

DCR Response Letter

Ms. Trexler's draft DCR letter was reviewed, in effort to reach out to MA DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation), specifying assets itemized by consultant Stacy Spies. Ms. Costa said it was important that MA DCR have a complete listing of such important assets.

Mr. Hagger stated that his understanding about the reason for the Commission's letter to DCR was because at the meeting with DCR, DCR had asked for feedback on all the artifacts along the corridor which ones the Commission would want to be highlighted and interpreted as part of a design of the rail trail. Mr. Hagger also stated that the letter's premise and focus should be on what the Commission wants highlighted and interpreted as part of the design of the rail trail. He expressed his opinion that the Commission needs to make the assumption that all the artifacts will be preserved, whether by what Eversource construction does to them, or what the rail trail might do to them because the Commission's comments on the preservation of all the artifacts is through the Army Corps process, not through the DCR letter. Mr. Hagger commented that the major points of the letter is what artifacts to highlight but not about what to save, preserve or document. Mr. Hagger suggested deletion of certain draft wording that refers to preservation that pertains to Army Corps Section 106 comments.

Ms. Warren stated it was important to send a letter to DCR, She suggested having a short HC meeting to discuss the draft, as all members did not receive sufficient time to review this important letter. Ms. Trexler agreed with Ms. Warren, adding that she, Mr. Greene, and Ms. Costa were not anticipating a vote on this letter that night. Ms. Warren suggested the consultant, Ms. Spies, should also review the letter.

The Commissioners agreed that the Ms. Warren's draft DCR letter should be reviewed at the next Commission meeting, as well.

Historical Commission Finance Reports/Contractor Invoices

Mr. Hagger confirmed a balance in the SHC fund. Mr. Hagger referred to the overrun of the preservation consultant's invoice, and inquired about how the Commissioners want to handle the situation. Ms. Warren commented that going forward, the Commission should have all work to be contracted in writing; she recognized the commissioners were under unusual time constraints with the comment letters regarding the Army Corps letter and MOA and Section 106 comment to the MHC.

Mr. Hagger reiterated the issue about the Commission paying the overrun.

Mr. Greene indicated that the invoice was misleading, and must be restructured in order to assess whole picture. Mr. Hagger confirmed that all invoices and payments to the consultant were reviewed.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historic Commission will release \$1,000 to the consultant, pending Town Manager approval of such invoice. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 6-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-no, Katz-aye.

VOTED: The Sudbury Historic Commission will obtain Town Manager approval before releasing the \$1,000 preservation consultant invoice total for related and beneficial services provided to the Commission.

Ms. Costa stated the consultant's services were excellent. She queried about Commission receipt of standard Town invoicing procedures/forms; confirming that the Commission will be more detailed with regard to such invoicing and will require written explanation from consults regarding invoicing exceeding approved allocations.

Resident and Select Board Member, Janie Dretler, 286 Goodman's Hill Road, thanked Mr. Hagger for his diligent review of the discussion invoice process. She confirmed that the Select Board had approved \$3,000 last year for this project, and indicated that the additional invoice amount, was excessive. She expressed her discomfort regarding how this matter was handled.

Ms. Warren motioned the Sudbury Historic Commission approve Section 106 consultation services of Ms. Stacy spies in the amount of \$500.00, pending approval of Town Manager, in order to restore Commission approval on May 18, 2021, for said consultation services, which was rescinded on May 25, 2021. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To approve Section 106 consultation services of Ms. Stacy Spies in the amount of \$500.00, pending approval of Town Manager, in order to restore Commission approval on May 18, 2021, for said consultation services, which was rescinded on May 25, 2021

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Update

Present: Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner

Ms. Suedmeyer noted that the additional SHC artifact information was included within the 75% design submission, with pictures of such assets.

Ms. Suedmeyer commented that any related SHC follow-up/additions be submitted in the next month.

Ms. Suedmeyer detailed that engineers made recommendation regarding revisions to the Hopp Brook Bridge, and all associated plans are posted on the project website. She noted that Ma DOT (Department of Transportation) was reviewing the possibility of an archeological survey, if warranted.

Ms. Suedmeyer suggested that a SHC subcommittee be formed to address resources along the corridor. She added that all related comments must be submitted in a month.

Mr. Conard, Ms. Trexler, and Mr. Greene volunteered to form the recommended subcommittee, and agreed to share additional comments at the July 20, 2021, SHC meeting.

Sudbury Historic Property Survey –

Mr. Hagger provided update, and asked Ms. Trexler to provide written guidance so each Commissioner could proceed with their portion (15 surveys) of the review in August.

Related discussion took place. Ms. Trexler confirmed that the surveys would be due by August 13, 2021.

Maynard Wheeler Gravestone

Mr. Greene stated the topic update would be presented at the July 20th meeting.

Return of the Jemina Morse and John Jones Gravestones to Natick

Mr. Greene stated the topic update would be presented at the July 20th meeting.

Hosmer House

Mr. Hagger confirmed that he and Ms. Cebra would be conducting a tour of the Hosmer House tomorrow with Town Manager Hayes.

Cemetery Headstone Cleaning

Commissioner agreed to postpone this topic to the July 20th meeting.

Haynes Garrison Site Overgrowth

Ms. Cebra reiterated that the overgrowth reflected an ongoing issue, and indicated it would be preferred if Town staff could manage this project.

Historical Commission Remote Meeting Participation

Mr. Hagger announced that as of tomorrow, all Town Board/Commissions would have to take place in person; but the hope is that MA legislation will vote to postpone such in-person meetings until September.

Ms. Warren commented she was uncomfortable with in-person meetings at this time, but suggested that any such meeting take place at either Town Hall or the Police Station, where social distancing of six feet can be observed in larger meeting spaces.

Date for Next Meeting(s)

Mr. Hagger confirmed the upcoming meeting date of July 20, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn

At 11:00 P.M., Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting