



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Jan Costa, Taryn Trexler, Marjorie Katz, Steve Greene, Kathryn McGrath, Chris Duvall

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Historical Preservation Consultant Peter Benton

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Durall-Present, Hagger-Present, McGrath-Present, Cebra-Present, Costa-present, Warren-Present, Greene-Present, Trexler-Present, Katz-Present,

Approval of October 25th (approved, not posted), December 14, 2021 and January 10th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger confirmed minutes were being reviewed.

Approval of 2021 Annual Town Report

Commissioners reviewed the 2021 Annual Town Report, and discussed various edits as proposed; including Master Plan aspects.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the Sudbury Historical Commission 2021 Annual Town Report as amended during discussion. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, Cebra-aye, Costa-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve the Sudbury Historical Commission 2021 Annual Town Report as amended during discussion

Historic House Marker Program

Mr. Hagger noted the sign maker, Bob Leonard, had passed away and now the Commission is seeking someone to take his place. Mr. Hagger commented the Commission had to determine what action to take regarding sign monies submitted by homeowners for markers.

Ms. Katz mentioned she had started to research other possible sign makers, noting most would be more expensive than Mr. Leonard. Ms. Warren suggested the SHC contact homeowners who submitted deposits, and inform them that the Commission was actively seeking another sign maker. Ms. Costa noted she had refunded all homeowner deposits. Ms. Katz added that she contacted those homeowners as well.

Ms. Cebra recommended photos of existing Sudbury house markers be taken, in order to maintain consistency. Ms. Warren recommended obtaining a template from the family of Mr. Leonard, or trace an existing home. Ms. Trexler offered to provide her signs for template use.

Ms. Warren stated Mr. Leonard made signs for many communities throughout Massachusetts.

Hosmer House including Long Term Management, Open Houses, Contents, Roof Project

Ms. Cebra described many of the events previously housed at the Hosmer House. She noted the Commissioners who donated much of their time, as well as Lynn MacLean, Barbara Bahlkow, Liz Radowski, and others.

Ms. Cebra commented that she, Ms. Katz, and Ms. McGrath were recently working at the Hosmer House attic in preparation for the new roofing to be installed. Ms. Cebra confirmed she checks on the Hosmer property several times a week, especially in the winter; checking on the water, alarms and working with Facilities Director Bill Barletta.

Ms. Cebra presented the “Hosmer House (HH) Management” document dated 1/29/19, as drafted by Ms. Costa. The Objective read: 1.) “To ensure the sustainability of the Hosmer House moving forward as a community engaged Town resource through viable, ongoing-strong management, and 2.) Enable the SHC to redirect its efforts towards preservation activities consistent with its character.”

Ms. Cebra detailed sections of the document:

- Hosmer House Historic/current status
- Factors driving need for change (Decentralizing HH Management)
- How do we keep the house viable? (website modification, explore funds)
- Town Requirements (TBD)
- Management Options

Ms. Cebra stressed the hiring of a manager for the Hosmer House would be the goal, and the volunteer aspect would have to wait until COVID restrictions are lifted.

Ms. Hagger stressed the major influence of COVID.

Mr. Greene stressed the importance of the Hosmer House being a Town-owned property, and asked if other communities also manage small house museums.

Ms. Trexler house suggested a separate Hosmer House Committee be implemented, or a Hosmer House Subcommittee. Ms. Cebra agreed such could be implemented with close working relationship with SHC. Ms. Warren noted implementation of such a Hosmer House Subcommittee would be possible.

Ms. McGrath stated this might work into the preservation plan being worked on presently.

Ms. Trexler suggested the Commissioners consult with the Town Manager and the Select Board. Ms. Cebra expressed strong agreement.

Ms. Warren suggested the SHC provide an educational plan to bring forward to all entities in Town (most importantly the Town Manager and the Select Board), and stress the importance of this Town-owned resource. She stressed the need for a part-time Hosmer House Manager be brought forward to the Town.

Ms. Costa agreed with comments made by other Commissioners, and fund-raising needs to be addressed.

Ms. Katz stated Ms. Warren summarized the objective for the Hosmer House, perfectly.

Mr. Duvall endorsed Ms. Warren's idea regarding presentation of a document detailing the special Town resource known as the Hosmer House. He suggested the Commissioners examine some other such historic home websites in the area, and mentioned the possibility of developing a Hosmer House Association specifically dedicated to the Management of the Hosmer House. He went on to mention some possible donation sources; such as buying of a commemorative brick. Mr. Hagger mentioned Friends of the Hosmer House considerations.

Mr. Benton added the Historic Preservation Plan should be make planning and related recommendations for the Hosmer House.

Ms. Katz recommended an independent consultant might help.

Mr. Hagger provided summary of comments made:

- Establish a Hosmer House Subcommittee
- Talk to Town Manager and Select Board
- To develop scope of work for a part-time House Manager
- Produce a summary regarding the importance of this resource
- Subject to be included in the Historic Preservation Plan
- Funding raising responsibilities – SHC vs. other entity
- Would Town be responsible for the Hosmer House collections
- Would initial services of a consultant be beneficial

Ms. Cebra suggested a virtual Hosmer House Open House in consideration of uncertainties about COVID.

Eversource 106 Review including Contractor Invoice Approval

Ms. Warren confirmed that neither SHC, nor the Planning Department, had received a response from USACE regarding the Eversource 106 Review.

Ms. Warren displayed the "Invoice for Consulting Services #6" from Architectural Historian/Historic Preservation Consultant Stacy E. Spies, dated 1/10/22; in the amount of \$675.00.

Ms. Warren motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission approve "Invoice for Consulting Services #6," submitted on 1/10/22 for consulting services provided by Stacy E. Spies for payment amount of \$675.00. Ms. Katz seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, Cebra-aye, Costa-aye, Greene-aye, Trexler-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: That the Sudbury Historical Commission approve "Invoice for Consulting Services #6," submitted on 1/10/22 for consulting services provided by Stacy E. Spies for payment amount of \$675.00.

Ms. Warren confirmed there were no outstanding invoice amounts from Ms. Spies, and this invoice brought all related consultation services current. Ms. Warren acknowledged she would be drafting a letter to Town Manager Hayes, and Elaine Jones of the Select Board Office, confirming the SHC had approved Invoice #6, and is submitting such invoice for payment.

Historic Districts Commission Community Preservation Committee Application for Design Guidelines

Mr. Hagger stated this agenda item would be postponed until members of the Historic Districts Commission could be in attendance.

Ms. Trexler noted there would be a SHDC lecture series to be presented by Jen Doherty regarding Historic District design review and guidelines on February 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM. Ms. Trexler invited Commissioners to attend that presentation, and stated that she would be providing a video link to the presentation.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Certified Local Government Program

Mr. Hagger explained this program was presented at a recent MHC workshop, which he and Mr. Duvall attended.

Mr. Hagger highlighted the main take away from that workshop presented consideration that 27 local governments are competing for funding from the National Parks Service (10% of such funding), and 320 MA communities are competing for the remainder of the funding – thus, helpful to be certified as a local government, and Sudbury meets those requirements.

Jen Doherty, who conducted the workshop strongly encouraged the SHC to submit application to be recognized as a certified local government. Mr. Hagger further explained the related application process.

Mr. Hagger suggested Ms. Trexler discuss the proposed application with the SHDC, and the discuss this application at the next SHC meeting in February. Ms. Trexler agreed to do so.

Mr. Peter Consultation suggested that the Commission create a joint subcommittee with the SHDC (one member from each commission) to prepare the application/s.

Sudbury Eagle Scout Project Update

Ms. Cebra confirmed she had reached out to Sudbury Eagle Scout Asher Leavitt regarding his Historical Site QR coding description project. She mentioned the process would begin with providing Mr. Asher with a tour of the Hosmer House grounds/property on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Mr. Duvall confirmed he would be present for that tour.

Ms. Cebra mentioned it would likely take approximately two years to complete the process

Demolition Delay Bylaw

Mr. Hagger referenced the three-year old rough draft of a demolition delay document with input from the Building Inspector at the time. The rough document presented aspects regarding triggers for demolition delay, definition of partial demolition, and aspects that do not trigger a demo delay process. Mr. Hagger stressed the presented draft was never formalized with SHC.

Mr. Benton emphasized the importance of a “legal” definition of demolition and partial demolition in the Town. He suggested a related examination of what other local communities have included, to aid in Commission additions/inclusion to the bylaw.

Ms. Costa confirmed she had reviewed various municipal bylaws, noting Somerville and Medford had well defined bylaws.

Ms. Katz commented she had reviewed a number of community demolition delay regulations; and discovered Newton and Weston had exemplary demo bylaws.

Ms. Warren suggested the Commission request the opinion of Town Counsel regarding this important aspect.

Historic Preservation Plan Update

Ms. Warren noted Mr. Benton has been doing a vast amount of work on the Historic Preservation Plan, and commencing with Phase 2. She detailed Phase 2 would include a community survey and a Preservation Plan Forum in February.

Mr. Benton confirmed he submitted a Historic Preservation Plan document for inclusion in the Town Newsletter. Ms. Warren suggested that the newsletter include information about the Forum. He noted the Survey Monkey Community Survey would be released in mid-February through March.

Mr. Benton said he had interviewed many including Town staff and some boards. Mr. Hagger asked if Mr. Benton had interviewed the Planning Board, ZBA and Building Inspector.

Cemeteries

Ms. Katz had no updates at this time.

Historical Commission Mail

Ms. Costa stated there was nothing in the Flynn Building SHC mailbox for the treasurer during December, which is highly unusual when there is an active, on-going charity donation process. As multiple people may check the SHC mailbox, she asked that any mail addressed to the EB Hosmer Fund, the Hosmer House (checks, treasurer related info), vendor bills, mail addressed directly to her and so forth, be left in the mailbox for her to retrieve.

Historical Commission Finance Reports

Ms. Costa stated she distributed the Finance Reports, primarily regarding the General Fund and the Hosmer House Fund.

Date for Site Inspection for 82 Morse Road, Broadacres Farm under Demolition Delay Bylaw

Commissioners agreed to conduct the site inspection on January 25th at 11:00 AM; and scheduled January 27th at 11:00 PM as the storm-related alternate date.

Date for Next Meeting(s):

February 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM