



# Town of Sudbury

## Historical Commission

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### MINUTES

**MARCH 15, 2022**

### VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Historic Preservation Plan project Consultant Peter Benton

Absent: Taryn Trexler

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 6:34 PM. Roll Call was taken: Durall-Present, Hagger-Present, McGrath-Present, Cebra-Present, Costa-Present, Warren-Present, Greene-Present, Katz-Present

#### **Approval of January 10, 2022; January 18, 2022, and February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hagger postponed the review of minutes.

#### **Sudbury Valley Trustees Barton Barns**

Representative/s from the Sudbury Valley Trustees, were not present.

#### **Outreach Committee of the Sudbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission**

Present: Joanna Steffey, 5 Checkerberry Circle

Ms. Steffey presented the mission and overview of the new DEI Commission formed in May 2022 by the Select Board and its purpose of promoting diversity in the Town. She mentioned the formation by the DEI of the Outreach Subcommittee, as well as, the Structure Advisory Subcommittee, Budget Working Group, Lived Experiences Subcommittee, and the Training Subcommittee

She mentioned various DEI collaborations, including with other the Town entities, Town staff, and what other communities are doing in this aspect. She stated that DEI is looking for grant funding.

She mentioned that the DEI Commission has received an email from a Wayland resident connecting to clergy in Sudbury who are interested in having a conversation about town landmarks in Sudbury.

She detailed that the DEI Commission has adopted a "Land Acknowledgement Statement" that is read at the beginning of each meeting accompanying a reflection by the DEIC in honor of the original Indigenous People who inhabited the land that is now Sudbury. DEI Commission is hoping that other commissions, the Select Board and other groups will adopt the Statement language to read at their meetings.

Ms. Steffey said that the DEI Commission would like to have a collaborative conversation with the Sudbury clergy about the town markers and to include in the conversation other folks and also members of the SHC. She stated that the town markers are a topic that she imagined the SHC has previously talked about.

Mr. Durall mentioned his research regarding the tercentennial markers put up in the 1930's and looking to have them rehabilitated and there are also some granite posts at the major town intersections.

Ms. Steffey mentioned what was communicated to the DEI Commission by the clergy which was specifically the way that Indigenous People were referenced in town markers and had cited a few markers.

Ms. Warren stated her belief that the tercentennial markers in Sudbury were problematic for their representation of Indigenous Peoples and that the issue is not about restoration. She stated that the MA DOT, not the town, owns these markers as well as approximately 275 markers erected throughout the state. She also stated she believes that efforts should be made to get MA DOT to review the historical context of the markers, like the state has done with the state seal, and that the voices of Indigenous Peoples be part of the conversation.

Ms. Warren mentioned wording about Indigenous Peoples on a granite marker at the Haynes Garrison site. She also referred to the Town Master Plan's scant mention of Indigenous Peoples. She stated that some MA communities have signed an acknowledgement statement with the Narragansett Tribe expressing the intent to acknowledge and protect indigenous heritage.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Sudbury Update**

Present: Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner

Ms. Suedmeyer stated that the 100% design had been submitted to the MA DOT, comments had been received back from DOT and that the Section 106 no effect findings has been submitted by MA DOT to MHC. She said that MHC had concurred with the determination of no effects finding.

She detailed aspects of interpretive signage, and inclusion of rail artifacts to be incorporated, as well. Ms. Suedmeyer mentioned art installations.

Regarding the content of the interpretive signs, Mr. Hagger mentioned previous SHC input, which could be included in such planning. Mr. Greene offered to provide related historical materials for signage to Ms. Suedmeyer. Mr. Hagger opined that local rail historian, Rick Conard, might be able to provide related materials as well.

Ms. Warren asked about artifacts and the types, number and signs of signage. Ms. Suedmeyer detailed aspects of the types of signage, some with placement on a granite pillar and NPS panel type sign. She mentioned various opportunities for additional artifacts/signage, via CPC grant funding and the Sudbury Foundation .

Ms. Warren inquired about the number of panels and signs being proposed at this time. Ms. Suedmeyer mentioned itemized: 13 Granite posts, 4 National Park Service signs, 4 or 5 kiosks at several junctions in Sudbury (4.4 miles in Sudbury).

Ms. Cebra asked if signage kiosk maintenance, was the responsibility of the Town. Ms. Suedmeyer responded the responsibility was that of the town.

Ms. McGrath suggested the “land acknowledgement” being included as signage.

**Eversource 106 Review including 3/16/22 United States Army Corps of Engineers Consultation Meeting**

Ms. Warren provided an update about the various correspondence the SHC had received from the Army Corps since February. She noted that on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the USACE sent the SHC many documents including a 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the MOA by email, not a letter. She discussed the issue of the timing of a SHC comment about these documents. She commented that the Corps is still operating under Appendix C.

Ms. Warren stated she had reviewed the various documents which included a Historic Properties Avoidance and Protection Plan and a response to the SHC October 2021 letter to the Corps. She also had reviewed and edited to the draft MOA, and commented that the edits do not include changes that reflect the SHC request about various railroad features.

Mr. Hagger explained that the SHC needed to review the MOA and letters to get them out the next day.

The Commission reviewed the edited MOA and two draft letters: a comment letter to the Corps (with the MOA edits) and a letter to the MBTA.

Ms. Katz provided several language changes within the “Stipulations” section of the MOA. Ms. McGrath also provided language edits to the “Stipulations” section.

Ms. Costa suggested the Commission review the Appendices and Exhibits sections as well, in order to reserve the right to make changes within the body of the Agreement.

Ms. Warren referred to the accompanying draft letter to Mr. Maniccia, USACE Permits & Regulatory Branch. That letter included SHC comments, and information regarding plan sets, project impacts, Post-Review Discovery Plan, and revised MOA aspects, with comments emphasizing the Section Tool House, Hop Brook Bridges 127 and 128.

Ms. Katz made several language recommendations. Mr. Hagger provided some language suggestions regarding tone of message to USACE, Ms. Katz agreed.

Ms. Warren provided detail about a third Letter to Jamie Tesler of MBTA - MA DOT; regarding provisions of a 2010 Lease Agreement between the MBTA and DCR and the potential removal of railroad infrastructure.

**Mr. Hagger motioned the Commission approve the three documents as amended, and follow-up with minor editorial comments. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye**

Resident Rebecca Cutting, 381 Maynard Road, thanked the Commission for all their work, and suggested adding citizen comments to the record. Mr. Hagger concurred. She commented that she had communicated with Senator Markey’s office about facilitating a Narragansett tribe site visit.

Mr. Hagger stated that the SHC meeting tomorrow morning was cancelled but that there is a Corps meeting tomorrow afternoon at 2 PM. Mr. Hagger asked the SHC for comments about participation in the afternoon meeting.

Ms. Costa noted that it might be appropriate for Commissioner’s to participate in the afternoon meeting as an educational meeting but not to make comment to the Corps.

Ms. Warren commented that if the SHC thinks the Commission should attend then Mr. Hagger as Chair and other Commissioners could attend, though she is not available; and acknowledged the validity of Ms. Costa's comment. Ms. Warren agreed that Commissioner's attendance would be fine, if the Corps provided a recording of the meeting was provided to the Commission. Mr. Hagger asked how to respond if the Corps asked why the meeting was cancelled. Ms. Warren stated that the simple fact is that the SHC does not have a quorum to hold the morning SHC meeting. Ms. Costa suggested that it is relevant that the meeting was premature and a meeting would be appropriate after the Corps receives the SHC comments the SHC is formulating tonight to send tomorrow.

### **Historic Preservation Plan Update**

Ms. Warren stated that the HPP project has progressed through Phase I to Phase II. Mr. Benton was conducting outreach to boards, commissions, and other individuals and town entities. A Historic Preservation Survey was released, as of last week. So far there has been about 150 responses to the survey. She encouraged participation in the survey.

### **Certified Local Government Program**

Mr. Hagger confirmed the Historic Districts Commission unanimously supported participation the Certified Local Government Program, as did the Sudbury Historical Commission. Mr. Hagger confirmed that the next step is for him and SHDC Chair Fred Taylor to complete an agenda request form to get on the Select Board meeting agenda sometime in April. Mr. Duchesneau it is working on the request. Mr. Hagger stated the presentation to the Select Board would be the same presentation that Ms. Jen Doherty of MHC has presented. Mr. Durall volunteered to work on this effort.

### **Hosmer House including Roof Update, Memorial Day, Hope Sudbury Rental**

Ms. Cebra stated the Hosmer House roof installation was delayed to late summer. She mentioned the intent was to open the first floor of the Hosmer House on Memorial Day and that the house needs cleaning.

**Mr. Hagger motioned to approve up to \$500.00 for the first-floor cleaning at the Hosmer House. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye**

Ms. Cebra stated she recently met with Janice Rudolph (artist) and Lynn McLean. Ms. Rudolph offered to create a sculpture of Florence Hosmer. Ms. Cebra did not know where it might be placed. Ms. Cebra suggested that Ms. McLean and Ms. Rudolph appear before the Commission regarding the sculpture. She further stated that she and Mr. Duvall collaborated regarding deed research on the Hosmer House.

Ms. Cebra detailed Hope Sudbury is planning to rent the Hosmer House in early May and asked the Commission about the possibility of waiving the fee for such rental. Mr. Hagger indicated that the policy is to waive the fee for one free rental for a group that is a holiday decorator, but otherwise the Commission should maintain the rental policy. Mr. Hagger indicated that Hope Sudbury had already used its free rental. Ms. Costa stated that the rental fee was \$75 for an event; and suggested not charge Hope Sudbury the fee but stressed that the Commission did vote on this policy.

**Mr. Greene motioned to allow Hope Sudbury to used Hosmer House in May at no charge. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-1; Green-aye, Hagger-no, Costa-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye, 6-1 in favor.**

### **Sudbury Eagle Scout Project Update**

Ms. Cebra confirmed that Sudbury Eagle Scout Asher Leavitt, met with IT Director Mark Thompson, and indicated that Mr. Leavitt might be able to attend the next Commission meeting.

### **Mass Historical Tercentennial Marker Rehabilitation**

Mr. Durall mentioned he had spoken to Ms. Jen Doherty, of the MA Historical Commission, and followed up with the representative from Mass DOT cultural resources unit, who confirmed that MA DOT is responsible for the rehabilitation of the markers and that there was no funding for marker rehab at this time. Mr. Durall did not speak with MA DOT about the issue of the wording of the markers. MA DOT suggested that we contact our State Legislator about the need for funding for rehabilitation.

Mr. Dural mention the granite posts in town and questioned who owns the posts.

Ms. Warren stated she believes that the town owns the granite posts and that they were NR listed in 1973. She suggested that the MA DOT tercentennial markers be discussed further, especially with DEI, and to include the topic as an upcoming agenda item. Mr. Hagger agreed.

### **Historic House Marker Program**

Ms. Katz stated three companies were being considered for making House markers. Crosbie's designs who does Concord charges \$120 for set up and each individual marker is \$375. Tom Goth who does Historic Newport charges \$195. She noted that Tim Kearns (who assumed the work of previous owner, Bob Leonard), had not responded to her inquiry. She stated that the markers are going to be more expensive and would be about \$195.00 per marker.

### **Historical Commission Finance Reports**

Mr. Hagger stated there was a couple of thousand dollars available in the general fund, and suggested the Commissioners might consider what might be needed.

Commissioners discussed restoration of Florence Hosmer paintings and referrals.

### **Historical Commission Member Opening**

Mr. Hagger mentioned Ms. Trexler is finishing her term on the Commission, in May, and encouraged others to apply for the opening.

### **Date for Next Meeting**

April 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Greene informed all of the memorial service for Town Historian and SHDC member Lee Swenson, on April 2, 2022; at the First Parish Church.

### **Adjourn**

**Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.