



# Town of Sudbury

## Historical Commission

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### MINUTES

JULY 7, 2022

### VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Absent: Chair Chris Hagger, Jan Costa

Others Present: Preservation Consultant Peter Benton; Planning and Community Development Director Adam Duchesneau; Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry

Ms. Warren opened the Historical Commission meeting at 6:33 PM. Roll Call was taken: Cebra-present, Katz-present, Greene-present, McGrath-present, Durall-present, Warren-present

#### **Section Tool House loading platform and tracks**

Ms. Warren referenced the draft letter she composed from the Sudbury Historical Commission (SHC) to the Sudbury Historic Districts Commission (SHDC), dated July 7, 2022; Re: July 7, 2022, HDC Public Hearing Case 22-15, Parcel K09-5000, located within the George Pitts Tavern (local) Historic District, Applicants Eversource Energy and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), June 22 Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Certificate involves “permanent removal of the track structure (which) would negatively alter and impact the historical significance, integrity, and context of the Section Tool House, and construction of the proposed 14-foot-wide gravel access road would negatively alter the STH/George Pitts Tavern Historic District landscape/setting/site.”

Ms. Warren read from the letter: “Therefore, the SHC is opposed to approval by the Historic Districts Commission (HDC) of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) (and/or a Permit for Removal). Alteration and removal is not appropriate.”

Ms. Warren commented that the Commission could consider related action before the SHDC meeting this evening.

Ms. Cebra agreed the SHC should address this issue at the HDC meeting later tonight. Ms. Katz was in agreement, as was Mr. Greene, Ms. McGrath, and Mr. Durall. Commissioners reviewed the draft memo. Ms. Warren thanked Mr. Greene for providing related materials/photographs included in the memo to the HDC.

Mr. Duchesneau and Ms. Perry left the meeting at 7:15 PM due to scheduling of the SHDC hearing/meeting.

Resident Richard Flynn, 68 Stock Farm Road, applauded the SHC for taking a stand to preserve the Station House and noted he had been in the rail-freight industry for many years and indicated the Station House was one of a kind. He shared his witnessing of many historic rail features destroyed due to changes made to the rail system across the country.

Resident Rachel Goodrich, 10 Maple Street, who lives across the street from the Station House, thanked for the SHC for fighting to protect this historic feature.

Resident Nick Pernice, 255 Peakham Road, thanked the SHC for taking a stand regarding the protection of the Station House; he included copies of related power graphs for the Commission to consider.

Resident Dan DePompei, 35 Haynes Road, agreed with comments made by Mr. Flynn and detailed that the right-of-way had not been legally abandoned, and the MBTA was remiss in its claim of right-of-way abandonment status. He stressed that the Surface Transportation Board should be actively involved, and he and others have sent related correspondence.

Former Sudbury resident Renata Aylward, thanked the Commission for the tireless historical preservation efforts made in the Town.

Ms. Warren suggested that all those who provided comment, consider making similar comments at tonight's HDC meeting.

**Ms. Warren read in the words of the motion to approve the draft memo to the Historic District Commission, dated July 7, 2022. Mr. Greene moved in the words of Ms. Warren. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Cebra-aye, Katz-aye, Greene-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Warren-aye**

#### **Eversource/DCR Section 106 Review - Mass Historical Commission June 30th Letter**

Ms. Warren referenced the Section 106 Review Sudbury-Hudson Reliability Transmission Line in the letter to be sent to Brona Simon, MA Historical Commission, dated July 7, 2022. Ms. Warren stressed key aspects within the letter, including description regarding Appendix C.

Ms. Warren outlined various recommendations, including exactly how Phase 1 and Phase 2 might impact the resources; and the USACE has not shared that information.

**Ms. Warren read in the words of the motion to approve the July 7, 2022 draft letter from the SHC to Ms. Simon of the MA Historical Commissions. Mr. Durall moved in the words of Ms. Warren. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Cebra-aye, Katz-aye, Greene-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Warren-aye**

#### **Historic Preservation Plan**

Mr. Benton highlighted the four recommendations which he itemized within the Sudbury Historic Preservation Plan:

- The National Register Thematic Nomination
- The Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study
- The Route 20 Corridor

- The Town-Wide Interpretive Program

Mr. Benton stressed the importance of the Historical Landscape Report and the Historical Cultural Landscape Report, created to ensure that all the important Town buildings have historical landscape reports prepared for them, including the Hosmer House; and Cultural Landscape Reports, when appropriate.

Ms. Cebra noted that a historical structural analysis of the Hosmer House had never been done. She queried about how necessary repairs to the structure would maintain the historical significance and style of the historic house.

Discussion took place regarding volunteer hours spent at the Hosmer House.

#### Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study

Mr. Benton commented that such study, focuses on how the American Indian used the land/shaped the land, and how noted historical features became the result of such use.

Commissioners discussed the stewardship working group concept.

Mr. Greene commented that a thorough agricultural history of Sudbury had not been written. He noted there were five dairies in Sudbury, which could be explored. Ms. Warren advocated for the creation of a historical agricultural map of the Town. Mr. Benton mentioned the relationship between the farms and mills throughout history.

Ms. Cebra mentioned the history of barns in the Town of Sudbury, and suggested the importance of those barns be shared with the public. Ms. Warren mentioned the Sudbury barn study she was involved with several years ago, focusing on one of the barns being the oldest structure in the Town.

Mr. Benton mentioned the Demolition by Neglect Ordinance, in connection with possible CPC funding.

Ms. Warren recommended that Mr. Benton adjust the goals section of the Preservation document to further highlight archeological resources in Sudbury. Mr. Benton agreed.

In closing, the Commissioners thanked Mr. Benton for his work on the Sudbury Historic Preservation Plan.

#### Adjourn

**Ms. Warren motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Cebra-aye, Katz-aye, Greene-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Warren-aye**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.