



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JULY 14, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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

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

Section Tool House/Tracks – Eversource Historic Districts Commission Certificate of Appropriateness Application

Mr. Hagger recused himself from actively participating in the discussion. Ms. Warren led the discussion.

Ms. Warren recommended the Commissioners view the Sudbury TV Sudbury Historic Districts Commission (SHDC) meeting regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness Application. She noted that the related SHC Certificate of Appropriateness memorandum and photos were officially entered into the record of that SHDC meeting/hearing. Ms. Warren confirmed the hearing was continued to August 4, 2022, and many public comments were made during the Section Tool House hearings. She noted that the historical photos displaying the loading platform and tracks were integral parts of the tool house and its extension to the outside rail, which is an important historical resource of Sudbury.

Ms. Warren commented two approvals may be necessary from the SHDC; one, the Certificate of Appropriateness and two, a permit for removal.

Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Hagger resumed his participation in the meeting.

Mr. Benton stressed the importance of submitting related Historic Preservation Plan materials to other boards/commissions in Town.

Mr. Benton emphasized the importance of publishing the executive summary. Ms. Warren stated the historical context was factual information.

Ms. Warren inquired about information to be posted on the Town website before comments are collated. Mr. Hagger responded that such information should be posted through the month of August at least, in consideration of many interested people being away on vacation.

Ms. Katz asked how Mr. Benton would incorporate comments from the general public and also from the Commission. Mr. Benton commented Mr. Hagger and Ms. Warren should be the gatekeepers regarding the flow of information.

Ms. McGrath provided detail regarding a recent memo concerning demolition delay from Mass Preservation.

Mr. Greene asked if demolition by neglect was a separate category.

Ms. Costa questioned the difference between full and partial demolition. Mr. Benton attempted to address the questions presented by Commissioners.

Mr. Benton suggested simplification of Section 3. Mr. Hagger expressed his concern about potential unintended and undesirable changes regarding the related Demolition Delay bylaws.

Ms. Costa inquired about enforcement issues. Ms. Warren noted Town Counsel offered to write a document to clarify this topic. Ms. Katz commented SHC should not be the enforcement body.

Mr. Benton indicated his preference for a demolition by neglect bylaw, as opposed to a minimum maintenance bylaw.

Mr. Greene reported the Town of Sandwich has a similar bylaw, but has failed to enforce the bylaw in several instances.

Ms. Warren stated bylaw enforcement depends on the individual community to enforce, as exemplified in the communities of Concord and Newburyport. Ms. Katz opined a collaborative effort by town commissions, boards and staff would be essential for the success of the bylaw.

Mr. Benton stated a historic structure report along with a cultural landscape report for the Hosmer House would be included in the Plan. He stressed such reporting would be priorities when considering Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding.

Commissioners discussed different ways to increase the efficiency of the management and maintenance of the Hosmer House going forward.

Mr. Benton opined about a Town-wide interpretive presentation designed to raise public awareness; including the topics of natural resources, indigenous cultures, and the history of the early settlers and agriculture in Sudbury.

Commissioners discussed possible areas of interest.

Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Hagger announced the Historical Commission will hold another Historic Preservation Plan - focused meeting on August 2, 2022. The regularly SHC meeting would take place on August 16, 2022.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Hagger adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.