



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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

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

Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Benton recounted aspects of the meeting with Jenn Doherty of the Mass Historical Commission, noting that the deadline for the Sudbury Historic Preservation Plan was September 30, 2022; in consideration that this is the end of the fiscal year for the Federal Government, and the National Park Service has provided the funding for the MHC Grant.

Action Plan Matrix

Commission Members raised questions and discussed all areas itemized in the Action Plan Matrix; among those areas encouraging the most significant Commission discussion included:

Questions about the frequency of meetings of the Stewardship Working Group. Mr. Benton confirmed those meetings would take place twice per year.

The concept that a balance must be kept when considering short, mid, and long-term historical preservation projects. Mr. Hagger opined that the Commission must be realistic when considering what they can accomplish within a certain period of time.

Sign pollution in the Town Center, and those impacts on the cultural landscape.

Use of sub-committees in relation to Open Meeting Law requirements.

Historical Preservation Applications requesting CPC funding.

All aspects of the Demolition Delay Bylaw. Mr. Benton proposed that partial demolition be kept at six months, and full/substantial demolition delay be increased to an 18-month delay period.

Demolition by neglect bylaw.

Definition of an historic structure.

Availability of a historic preservation consultant being present at monthly Historical Commission meetings.

Support of the archeological resource protection bylaw.

Planning Board involvement with residential and commercial developments in Town.

Rewards program which is part of the Stewardship Working Group. Commissioners presented various opinions about including different stakeholders as nominating partners. Mr. Benton maintained part of the preservation plan involves areas to collaborate with other groups in Town.

Potential Projects needing Community Preservation Act Funds/Potential Application to Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Warren commented about the collections housed at the Hosmer House, which includes historic documents and paintings. Mr. Benton commented about hiring an architectural firm that provides a historian to work on the Hosmer House collections.

Mr. Benton recommended the Commission's first action should be to apply to the CPC for funding for a HSR (Historic Structure Report) to be completed for the Hosmer House and its collections.

Ms. Costa confirmed that the deadline for submitting applications to CPC was October 7, 2022. Mr. Poteat offered to help the Commission process CPC application/s.

Mr. Hagger reiterated the process involved with Sudbury becoming a Certified Local Government, which allows Sudbury to receive matching grants from the National Park Service on eligible projects funded by the CPC. Resident and Select Board Chair, Charles Russo, 30 Juniper Road, stated this is a great opportunity for the Town.

Ms. Warren mentioned that the CPC is required to provide funding of at least 10% on historical projects.

Section 106 Review and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Mr. Hagger detailed that the Commission received another letter from the USACE, dated August 26, 2022 detailing a design change to the project and provided notice to extend MOA approval signatures to September 12, 2022.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that the USACE did not respond to the Commission's recent letter to the USACE concerning the MOA, dated August 18, 2022.

A robust discussion evolved in consideration of whether or not the Commissioners should sign the MOA, as presented.

Ms. Warren motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission decline signing the MOA, dated July 29, 2022. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. It was on motion 4-0-3; Warren-aye, Greene-aye, Costa-abstain, Cebra-aye, Katz-abstain, McGrath-aye, Hagger-abstain.

Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hagger confirmed the site visit to the Revolutionary War Cemetery and the Hearse House, with the Sudbury Historical Society scheduled for September 14, 2022.

Mr. Hagger stated the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sudbury Historic Commission was scheduled for September 20, 2022.

Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 PM.