



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Absent: Diana Cebra

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry, Community Preservation Coordinator Ryan Poteat

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

Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2022

SHC Members reviewed the minutes of 12/13/22.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the 12/13/22 Minutes of the Sudbury Historical Commission, as edited. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

196 North Road under the Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw

Present: Mary Brennan, Owner

Mr. Hagger referred to the Demolition Delay Bylaw referencing Section 4 item 3. He commented that the application was received on December 1, 2002. Mr. Hagger confirmed the Commission conducted a site visit on January 9, 2023.

Mr. Hagger referred to the MACRIS inventory form for 196 North Road - which was displayed during the meeting – commenting the ownership of the property by the Haynes family who were prominent in Sudbury's early history. He referred to the historical narrative in the survey.

Ms. Warren stated the property had been professionally surveyed, and it clearly is one of the oldest historic structures in Sudbury and there is no question that it is very historically significant.

Ms. McGrath detailed the structure has had other uses such as a store over the years and the house may be older than 1750 as an earlier 1715 dating has been suggested. She commented that the main structure was still intact.

Ms. Warren reported the house had been in the Haynes Family for generations, and links back through the generations to Walter Haynes born 1583, one of the original Proprietors of Sudbury Plantation in 1639. She commented that she has researched the family genealogy from Walter Haynes to the Haynes owners of the property.

Ms. McGrath commented on the windows dating to 1914.

Ms. Brennan mentioned that when she bought the house, the windows were either broken or boarded up, and therefore, were replaced, but they kept the same size.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historic Commission determine the building at 196 North River Road is historically significant. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project including Retention of Steel Rails

Present: Matt Devlin and Denise Bartone of Eversource; Marty Dudek, Cultural Resource Consultant; Jennifer Roberts, Sudbury Select Board

Mr. Hagger commented on the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers Eversource, concerning the rail rests and track in front of the Section Tool House and the retention of pairs of rails.

Mr. Dudek summarized the matter of the rails and the questions about the retention and placement of the rails.

Ms. Warren inquired about the different lengths of the rails and which would be retained at the Section Tool House and rail rest locations. Mr. Devlin responded there are plans to leave two lengths of rails, four rails in total, which are roughly 33 ft in length.

Ms. Bartone stated that the intent is pair of rails at three rail rests locations as was discussed which is doable for Eversource.

Mr. Hagger stated there were abutment stones remaining on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; and inquired if Eversource could provide those stones to the Sudbury Historic Commission. Ms. Bartone confirmed that Eversource would move the stones to where the SHC wanted, but would not move them a second time.

Mr. Hagger inquired if Eversource would move a steel girder from bridge 127. Ms. Bartone stated there are challenges associated with the disassembling and moving of the girder.

Mr. Hagger asked about the stolen rail switches. Mr. Devlin noted that Eversource contacted both local police departments and scrap yards, with photo documentation. Ms. Bartone confirmed that Eversource would continue to perform related monitoring. Ms. Roberts requested a summary description of the missing switches. Ms. Bartone provided such a summary.

Ms. Katz thanked Eversource for their cooperation in regard to this project.

Invitation to Consult on Mass Center Rail Trail – Interpretive Signage Development

Ms. McGrath offered to act as the SHC representative to consultant on the Interpretive Signage, and work with other Conservation Groups and the Mass Historic Commission.

Community Preservation Commission Updates: Historical Commission applications, Mass Historical Commission matching grant applications, Definition of Historical Resources

Ms. Costa updated the Commission on related Community Preservation Commission (CPC) applications. She detailed that two of the applications were unanimously approved, and the application for the Phase V Survey project was scheduled to be discussed at the next CPC meeting.

Ms. Costa reported that several members of the CPC questioned if the Historical Homes Survey - Phase 5, would be the final phase of the project. Ms. Warren replied the Town wide Historic Preservation Plan highlighted many projects and that the Phase IV Survey Final Report recommended about nine major projects for surveys and studies that need to be acted upon. She stated that Phase V therefore would not be a final survey project.

Ms. Costa mentioned the CPC has asked the SHC to vote on the significance of the applications submitted.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission determines the Hosmer House Historical Structure, Cultural Landscape, and Collection Study is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Sudbury. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-abstain, Katz-aye.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission determines the Town Wide Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study is significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of Sudbury. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-abstain, Katz-aye.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission determines the Historic Resource Inventory Survey's Phase 5 Study is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Sudbury. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-abstain, Katz-aye.

Sudbury TV Discussion

Ms. Warren explained that SudburyTV had applied to the CPC for funding under the historic resource category, to digitize images/videos. She added that the TV images are not to be preserved but will be copied, and therefore believes the project is not a preservation planning tool, and although a worthwhile project does not qualify for CPC funding.

Ms. Warren also opined that the new images less than 50 years old are not historically significant.

Ms. McGrath reported CPC funds have been used in other communities to digitalize such records.

Ms. Costa stated the difficulty is that SudburyTV's application focused on the actual information transfer from an older digital format into a newer digital format, and not on the preservation of the source document. A 2008 letter from the MA Department of Revenue states that "Historic documents, not the information they contain, are the 'historic resource' eligible for Community Preservation Fund expenditure." In the opinion of Sudbury Town Council, stated that the preservation of the video recordings are not eligible for CPC funding under the historic resources (or any other category)." A digitalization process that is secondary to historic document preservation may or would be acceptable.

Ms. Costa commented that in the 2 communities of Belmont and Amherst which previously received funding for digitization of records, one of the record sources was newspapers and the other was town records. Ms. Costa stated that this situation was most unfortunate and recognized the value and partnership of Sudbury TV with the Town and the Historic Commission.

Ms. Warren commented that Sudbury TV is a wonderful organization doing great work to document what's happening in Sudbury and that it is a good project and expressed dismay that it is not eligible for CPA funds because of the way the CPA is written now as commented by town counsel and MA DOR. She expressed hope that Sudbury TV will find funds and said that SudburyTV has applied for archival State funding.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission determines the Sudbury TV Video Digitalization Archival Project is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Sudbury. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-1; Costa-no, Hagger-no, Durall-no, McGrath-aye, Warren-no, Katz-no.

Hosmer House, including roof and gutter replacement project, Open Houses, Potential donation of Homer painting

Mr. Hagger confirmed he forwarded the report from the Sudbury Historic District Commission's meeting to Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran.

Ms. McGrath commented that approximately twenty people came to the Hosmer House Open House.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that Ms. Stephanie Edgerly has offered to donate two Florence Hosmer paintings. Mr. Hagger stated that the related acceptance process had begun.

Mr. Durall suggested that Ms. Edgerly document knowledge about the painting/s, and explain the relationship/friendship between her mother (subject of one of the paintings) and Florence Hosmer.

Ms. Warren acknowledged that the portrait style painting by Ms. Hosmer, added an important dimension to the Hosmer collection.

Ms. Katz agreed that provided narrative of explanation behind the painting, would provide increased interest.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission accept the donation of the picture from Ms. Edgerly. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Durall-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Katz-aye.

Research on Slavery in Colonial Sudbury

Mr. Hagger stated that Jane Sciacca of the Wayland Historical Society has offered her documented research on slavery in Colonial Wayland and Sudbury; to either the Sudbury Historical Society or Sudbury Historical Commission.

Ms. McGrath emphasized the SHC should review the research, which would be helpful for the pending survey project.

Historical Commission Finance Reports

Ms. Costa suggested that personal expense reports and vendor management/payments be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

The FY24 Budget was discussed by the Commission.

Historic Preservation Plan

Present: Kevin LaHaise, 195 Horse Pond Road

Mr. Hagger reported Mr. LaHaise has offered to provide Historic Preservation Plan publicity, via his weekly newsletter.

Ms. Costa stated it would be helpful to look at examples of previous editions of the newsletter.

Ms. Warren inquired if the mentioned newsletter was a personal blog. Mr. LaHaise replied there are several contributors to the newsletter.

Ms. Katz inquired about public access to the newsletter. Mr. LaHaise stated word of mouth, and social media, were the methods used to access the newsletter.

Sudbury Historical Society – Revolutionary War Cemetery including Kiosk

Ms. Warren stated she thought there were two issues to be considered: the name of the burial ground, and the issue of reviving kiosk. She commented that she had not previously thought about the appropriateness of the Revolution War Cemetery name although she knew the burial ground was established in 1717 for the general population, and only 10% of the people buried here were actively involved in the Revolutionary War. Her opinion is that the name Revolution War Cemetery is historically incorrect She provided other background on the cemetery naming and history. Ms. Costa stated the name, Revolutionary War Cemetery, had been adopted around 1977. She noted the bronze plaque, which includes a map of the cemetery, was missing. Ms. Costa commented that Ms. Doherty, Local Governments Coordinator for the Massachusetts Historic Commission, confirmed that many old cemeteries were originally known as Old Cemetery and that cemetery names evolve over time.

Mr. Hagger inquired about the position of the Sudbury Historical Society (SHS). Ms. Costa confirmed that three members from the SHS, agreed with keeping the name, Revolutionary War Cemetery.

Ms. Warren presented a timeline about how the cemetery was referred to from 1716 to recently. She also highlighted a survey completed in 1976 depicting the cemetery named Old Cemetery.

Discussion among commissioners regarding the name of the cemetery took place.

Mr. Hagger motioned the Sudbury Historical Commission adopt the name of Revolutionary War Cemetery, formerly known as The Old Cemetery, for both the sign and the kiosk. Ms. Costa seconded the motion.

Ms. Warren opined about the true nature of the cemetery site, which was established in 1717 for the general population.

Ms. Warren stated that latest burials at the site took place in 1840. She stressed it was inappropriate for the cemetery to be named the Revolutionary War Cemetery.

Ms. Costa presented the recent email from Ms. Jan Doherty, who was fine with keeping the Revolutionary War name designation, with inclusion of Old Cemetery, as previously named.

Ms. Costa motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission recommends the retention of the name Revolutionary War Cemetery on the Kiosk map for the cemetery behind Town Hall, and to be determined if it would be named Revolutionary War Cemetery, also known as/formerly known as The Old Cemetery; or provide footnote/s on the map. She also stated the map could provide reference to other names, but the primary name is Revolutionary War Cemetery.

Mr. Hagger motioned to amend the motion to read: Revolutionary War Cemetery established 1716, formerly as Old Burial Ground. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye.

Ms. Warren motioned that the Historical Commission approve wording that the site will be called Revolutionary War Cemetery – established 1716 as Old Burial Ground, be used on the signage and kiosk. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye.

Ms. Warren confirmed she voted in the affirmative, with the caveat that the naming was historically incorrect.

2023 SHC Meeting Schedule

Mr. Hagger proposed to adjust the 2023 Meeting Schedule, as amended.

Ms. Costa motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission accept the proposed changes to the 2023 meeting schedule. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye, Hagger-aye, Warren-aye.

Open Meeting Law

Mr. Hagger reminded the newer Commissioners must view the Open Meeting Law online video. He noted the January 18th Open Meeting Law Guide, could be obtained per request.

Mr. Hagger stated when e-mails are sent among the Commissioners, they must not reflect a quorum. Mr. Hagger further commented on his notes from previous comment made by Town Counsel regarding OML that indicated the need to be careful about a quorum and decisions being made that the public may have an interest in – is the litmus test.

Ms. Warren requested an agenda item for the next SHC meeting include the processes on how to verify who is buried at the Revolutionary War Cemetery.

Ms. Warren then motioned that the Sudbury Historical Commission welcomes collaborative efforts with the Sudbury Historical Society, and appreciates the research effort made to date, to identify previously unknown Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Sudbury Center; and therefore, in support of accurate representation of Sudbury's history on interpretive signage, moved that the Sudbury Historical

Commission at this time, pause its effort to: revise the cemetery kiosk map, and not add any persons name as a Revolutionary War soldier to the map until such time as the verification step has been completed for each soldier. Said verification to result in identifying documentary evidence specific to each person that proves the person is in fact: buried in the Cemetery, and served as a Revolutionary War soldier.

Ms. Warren recommended and offered to table the motion, and to carry it forward to the next Historical Commission meeting, given the fact that the time is now 11:17 PM. Mr. Hagger stated he would put this item on the February 21, 2023 meeting agenda.

Recommended Archeology

Ms. McGrath stated an Archeology topic be an ongoing agenda item going forward, in consideration that Sudbury is a Certified Local Government.

Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition Meeting

Mr. Hagger encouraged the Commissioners to sign up for the upcoming Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition Meeting.

Historic House Marker Program

No updates were presented.

Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Hagger stated the next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2022.

Ms. McGrath stated the last MPPF (Master Preservation Projects Fund) meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2023. Ms. Warren stated there are 2 categories requests fall into.

Mr. Hagger moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye, Hagger-aye, Warren-aye.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 PM.