



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

May 16, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Others Present: 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, Durall present, McGrath-present, Costa-present, Katz-present, Andreas-present, Warren-present

Approval of March 21st and April 18th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the March 21, 2023 minutes of the Historical Commission, as amended, and he would review the recording for a vote on alcohol being served at the Hosmer House. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes of the Historical Commission, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0-1; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-abstain, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye.

Public Hearing – 196 North Road under the Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw

Mr. Hagger stated that the Building Inspector requested additional information from the applicant before issuing a building permit. He suggested a thirty-day extension for both the public hearing and the demo plan submittal, in the event that the building inspector requires a determination from the Commission.

Mr. Hagger motioned to extend the public hearing for 196 North Road for an additional 30 days. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye.

Mr. Hagger motioned to extend the demolition plan submittal date for 196 North Road for an additional 30 days. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, McGrath-aye, Warren-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye.

328 Hudson Road under the Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw.

Mr. Hagger summarized the status of the application.

Mr. Hagger motioned to delay the deadline for the demolition delay plan submission for 328 Hudson Road for 60 days. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, Mr. Andreas-aye, Katz-aye.

Ms. McGrath did not vote due to technical difficulties.

Sudbury Weekly Q&A Edits

Ms. Warren commented that the write-up was too technical and not public facing and wondered if it would grab the public's attention.

Ms. Cebra commented that it was somewhat heavy content for the public and there may be different ways to get the information out to people.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the Q&A for submittal. It was seconded by Ms. Cebra. It was on motion 5-0-1. Cebra-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-abstain.

Ms. McGrath did not vote due to technical difficulties.

Sudbury Historical Society request for letter of support for a grant

Ms. McGrath provided background details regarding a request from the Historical Society for the SHC to support the Society's application for a Mass Humanities grant to fund an interactive exhibit about Sudbury's Changing Landscape. She presented a draft of a SHC letter of support.

Mr. Andreas suggest adding comment in the closing paragraph of the letter that the History Center is a widely used Town resource.

Ms. Warren suggested that the letter not only ask that the grant request be consider by the funder but also ask that the grant be approved. She also suggested the letter mention that the History Center is a Town-owned historic structure.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the letter of support from the Sudbury Historical Commission for the Sudbury Historical Society, as amended. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Cebra-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye.

Redesign of Revolutionary War Cemetery Kiosk Sign and Structure

Present: Sudbury Historical Society Member Ed Kreutz, 325 Maynard Road, Sudbury Historical Society Member Beth Gray-Nix, 226 Pond Street, Natick; Sudbury Historical Society Member Elin Neiterman, 8 Red Oak Drive

Ms. Costa spoke about the ongoing meetings with the Sudbury Historical Society regarding the kiosk sign.

Ms. Costa provided a compilation of different historical signs located in various towns.

Ms. Costa reported that funding of \$17,000 was approved at the 2015 Town Meeting, which could cover the cost associated with new signage, including the kiosk.

Ms. McGrath opined that the style should be coordinated with other signs throughout the Town.

Mr. Andreas confirmed there are two other low-profile signs, located in the Assabet Wildlife Refuge Area.

Ms. Cebra indicated that such signage had not been maintained, and signage in Town must maintain a more-uniform appearance.

Ms. Warren stated that the funding for the kiosk comes from the 2015 Annual Town Meeting approval of approximately \$17,000 and wondered about what the procurement process for a new kiosk would be, whether a legal bid process would need to be followed and whether the kiosk would have to be bundled with the Hearse House sign to exceed 10K to trigger a bid process. She also questioned the suggested size of a size (40" x 40") for a new kiosk and that the new sign should meet National Park Services guidelines.

Ms. Warren stated the Boy Scouts' kiosk presently includes 504 names and she asked how many names would be included on the new Kiosk. Ms. Neiterman stated the proposed kiosk would include 554 names.

Ms. Costa stated that the Boy Scout kiosk currently has 485 names, but Ms. Warren stated she had counted 504 names.

Ms. Gray-Nix stated technology has outdistanced planning rules, and some leeway must be provided, when establishing design guidelines for signage.

Ms. Costa stated most vendors provide both the base, and the map part of the sign. She noted that the bigger issue involves getting the kiosk installed in the ground.

Mr. Kreutz acknowledged a company in Chelmsford which installs and manufactures signs, with a high-pressure laminate combined with an aluminum base.

MassDOT Tercentenary Marker Restoration

Mr. Hagger reported that MassDOT has notified the Historical Commission that they plan to remove, restore and reset the Sudbury Fight tercentenary marker located on Route 20. He commented that the SHC could comment to MassDOT on whether or not the marker should be restored and reset. Mr. Hagger stated that the HDC has approved the work on the wall and the removal and replacement of the marker.

Ms. Warren stated that the tercentenary markers have been an issue in town for close to two years and that there recently has been a town forum about the markers. She recommended that the Sudbury DEI be notified about the MassDOT letter.

Mr. Andreas stated it is not about wording changes, it's about repainting the sign.

Ms. Warren commented that many in the community find the wording of the sign offensive and that restoring the sign will sanction what the sign represents. She mentioned that the Sudbury Clergy Association wrote a letter to DEI about the signs.

Mr. Andreas suggested the Commission comment that the SHC believes that these signs are out of date and the text should be revised as part of a restoration process. He added that wording could also include comment that a number of people and organizations in town that find the current wording of the sign offensive.

Ms. Warren stated she thinks that MassDOT needs to look at the marker issue statewide.

Ms. McGrath agreed that the issue is statewide, didn't think text could be revised and MassDOT needs to come up with a solution about these tercentenary signs. She stated that maybe the SHC recommend that the sign not be put back up.

Mr. Hagger asked if the wording of a SHC letter should be changed to recommend that the sign not be restored and not put back instead of recommending that the text be revised.

Ms. McGrath and Ms. Warren agreed, recommending that the sign not be restored and put back.

Mr. Hagger offered various versions of draft wording for the SHC letter to MassDOT and then stated final draft wording as: "The SHC believes these signs are out of date There are a number of Sudbury residents and organizations in town who find the words to be offensive. We do not recommend this sign be restored and put back."

Ms. Katz suggested that the clergy letter be attached to the letter and that the letter reference it.

Then Mr. Hagger asked Ms. Warren to make a motion.

Ms. Warren motioned: "I move that the Sudbury Historical Commission send a response to the letter from Barry Lorian, Highway District III Director, MassDOT, expressing the Commission's opinion on the issue of the removal, restoration, and replacement of the "Sudbury Fight" Tercentenary Marker to not be restored and replaced. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Cebra-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye.

Historical Commission Applications approved by the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting.

Ms. McGrath inquired about how best to proceed whether an RFQ or RFP.

Ms. Warren summarized the SOW/RFQ/Contract process and recommended that the SHC hire Peter Benton to consult on fine tuning SOWs and drafting RFQs for both the Indigenous Landscape Study project and the Hosmer House Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Reports and Collection Study.

Ms. McGrath expressed her preference to have applicants define the scope of work for the RFP.

A SHC discussion ensued about where the funding to hire a country would come from – either the General or Hosmer Fund.

Mr. Hagger motioned that if the Sudbury Historical Commission is able to secure the services of a consultant for assistance with the Hosmer House and Indigenous Studies this fiscal year the SHC will rescind the prior authorization to spend \$1,000 from the General Fund to purchase shades for Hosmer House, this fiscal year. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Cebra-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye.

Mr. Hagger motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,000 from the General Fund this fiscal year, to procure the services of a consultant for the Town Meeting approved articles; Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study, and the Hosmer House Project. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Cebra-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye.

Before Ms. Warren left the meeting at 2 hours 38 minutes, she commented that the Phase V Inventory Survey Project will update inadequate inventories and non-documented properties located in historic districts like 285 Concord Road that the HDC had recently noted were out of date.

Granite Marker – Union Avenue/Concord Road Intersection

Mr. Hagger stated the Town will be relocating several granite roadside markers, as part of the Complete Streets Program. Bill O'Rourke of the DPW, suggested a site visit be conducted once a contractor has been selected.

Mr. Hagger stated several of the markers have sustained some damage. Mr. Andrews inquired about the date the stone was placed at the intersection. Mr. Durall replied research is needed to determine the dates of the stones.

Consultation for Eversource Transmission Line Project

Mr. Hagger reviewed a letter received from Eversource about relocating some of the power lines.

Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project including Retention of Portions of Bridge 128 and Cattle Pass

Mr. Hagger stated the related site visit is scheduled for May 17th and three members of the Commission will be previewing the site.

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

Ms. McGrath reported on the different types of signage which have been discussed. Ms. Costa inquired about the signal relays. Ms. McGrath replied that one is near the diamond junction.

Ms. Costa confirmed there are two relays, but only one was in good shape.

Railroad Section House

Mr. Hagger provided update regarding the ownership of the Railroad Section House.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that the Commission would have to submit extensive documentation to the MBTA, if they wished to enter the House.

Mr. Durall stated the requirements for access to the Section House is viewed as an active MBTA railroad.

Historic House Marker Program

Ms. Katz stated the sign maker has retired and his assistant has taken over the business, and the assistant has increased the price of house markers.

Ms. Katz recounted efforts to procure a new vendor for the Historic House Marker.

Date for next meeting(s) including CLG meeting with the SHDC

Mr. Hagger reported the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program requires the two Commissions meet on an annual basis. Mr. Hagger stated the SHDC and SHC need to meet and discuss the Stewardship Working Group, which has many stakeholders. Mr. Andreas suggested both chairs open the meeting by introducing the various members.

Hosmer House including Plow Donation, Hosmer House Facility Needs, Event Volunteers and Open Houses

Ms. Cebra stated that a meeting with the Director of the Facilities Department needed to be scheduled.

Ms. Cebra reported the newly purchased shades needed to be installed. Ms. Cebra reported that the Hosmer House would be open during the Memorial Day Parade. She further detailed that a retirement party for an art teacher will be held at the Hosmer House on June 14th.

Ms. Cebra provided historical background regarding the one-horse wooden plow, as donated by Ms. Rebecca Cutting. She noted that the name on the plow is still visible, and the Hosmer family used the plow.

Ms. Cebra confirmed that cleaning of the Hosmer House took place today, and it looks great.

Historic Commission Finance Reports and Current Year Funding Needs

Ms. Costa confirmed that everything had been discussed.

Information Session with National Park Service Grants

Mr. Hagger confirmed that he had attended the session earlier today. The presenters from the National Park Service detailed various available grants. Mr. Hagger opined that such grants might be applicable to the Sudbury Historical Society programs being considered, especially enslaved people education.

Recommended Archeology

Ms. McGrath mentioned several potential archeological projects in Town, even if the project is small. Mr. Andreas mentioned the Nobscot Boy Scout Reservation being sold.

Next Schedule Historical Commission Meeting

Mr. Hagger confirmed the next scheduled meeting would be held on June 20, 2023. He mentioned scheduling a joint meeting with the SHDC.

Adjourn

Mr. Hagger moved to adjourn. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Cebra-aye, Andreas-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 PM.