



# Town of Sudbury

## Historical Commission

Flynn Building  
278 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
978-639-3387  
Fax: 978-639-3314

historical@sudbury.ma.us

www.sudbury.ma.us/historicalcommission

### SUDBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

#### MINUTES

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

Members Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Treasurer Chris Durall, William Andrea, Jan Costa, Margie Katz

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Michael Wallace

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry

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

Mr. Durall was raised to voting status for this meeting.

#### **286 Old Lancaster Road under the Demo Delay Bylaw**

Present: Lisa Vitale-Barth, Owner

Mr. Hagger confirmed the application was received on 9/20/24 and a SHC site visit was conducted on 10/28/24.

Mr. Hagger mentioned the front part of the building was constructed in mid-1700's and the house was surveyed in 1995.

Mr. Andreas stated the 20<sup>th</sup> century addition was built in 1978 and the old garage was rebuilt after a fire.

Mr. Hagger stated the proposed addition would require the removal of the porch, which was not historically significant.

Ms. Costa commented that the sections of the house affected by the addition, were not historically significant.

**Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the application for partial demolition of 286 Lancaster Road, as the SHC has deemed the partial demolition covers a portion thereof of the structure which the SHC determined is not historically significant and the Building Inspector may issue a demolition permit. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Katz-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye**

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Interpretive Panels**

Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Staff liaison to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee; Lynn Horsky, Process Corp.

Ms. Rasmussen provided designation between the three types of signs: granite posts, National Park Posts and kiosks.

Ms. Rasmussen provided a summary regarding the development of the proposed signage and pictures of proposed panels.

Ms. Horsky stated her company could work to make the Town Center pictures/images, less busy.

Mr. Hagger indicated that it would be best to coordinate the signage for the BFRT and MCRT.

Ms. Rasmussen mentioned the differences in signage might help to distinguish the different rail trails.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 3**

Mr. Hagger mentioned various discoveries highlighted which included visible historical artifacts, such as: cattle crossings, culverts, upright signal and utility boxes. Mr. Andreas noted there were many great views along the trails.

### **Mass Central Rail trail including Diamond Junction Design**

Present: Amber Christoffersen, Trails and Greenway Planner and Project Manager for DCR; Jeffrey Harris, Cultural Resources and DCR Program and Preservation Manager

Ms. Christoffersen confirmed that she and Mr. Harris reviewed the work performed by Eversource.

Mr. Harris confirmed that he worked with Eversource, the Sudbury Historical Commission on the related Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Ms. Christoffersen displayed the Diamond Junction Design/round about plan, where two regional pathways would meet.

Rail Road Historian/Wayland Historical Commission Member Rick Conard, 25 Rich Valley Road, Wayland, MA explained that the Mass Central Railroad opened in 1881, went bankrupt in 1883 and was reorganized as the Central Massachusetts Railroad in 1885, which was under the direction of the Boston & Lowell RR. The Boston/Lowell RR became part of the Boston & Maine RR in 1887. Now called the MCRT in rail parts of Wayland and Weston. He recommended the trail in Sudbury be recognized as the same name in Wayland and Weston – MCRT. Ms. Christoffersen agreed. Mr. Hagger noted that consistency would be preferable.

Mr. Hagger asked if seating might be included on the granite piece. Mr. Andres agreed that such seat wall would be beneficial without creating patio-type seating.

Mr. Hagger noted the other diamond on the BFRT in W. Concord with tracks flushed to the concrete, lacks visibility. He asked that Ms. Christoffersen and the DCR team review the area around the Station House and the diamond in W. Concord.

Ms. Christoffersen reviewed points discussed:

- Change the title of the new section to MCRT
- Consider lowering the Diamond edge to create a seat wall
- Connect the (yellow) Station House with the diamond junction
- Consider raising the diamond rail to be more visible; concrete ties could be placed on the railroad tracks to help replicate the original appearance

Ms. Rasmussen confirmed that the desire to acquire the yellow Station House from the MBTA and the associated parking was agreed to at the last Town Meeting. Mr. Andreas stated that the topic is still under discussion and the associated 8-car parking area is currently being used for those on the trail.

### **Mass Central Rail Trail including Cultural Resources Annual Report, Bridge 128 and Timbers from Bridge 127**

Mr. Hagger inquired about the Bridge 128 existing iron trusses being included in the design plan, with use of granite seating when approaching the bridge. Mr. Harris stated that the MOA included that the stone abutments would be delivered by Eversource to the desired locations along the Trail.

Ms. Christoffersen and Mr. Harris stated they would be following-up with Eversource representatives regarding this matter. Ms. Christoffersen noted that many pieces were moved to the Sudbury substation area during construction, serving as a holding place.

Mr. Hagger referenced the photo of the existing remains of the bridge trusses and indicated the benefit associated with preserving the history and visualization/signage of the trusses. Mr. Harris mentioned that such visualization would be a challenge given the steepness of the site and the abutting wetlands. Ms. Christoffersen noted that some related detail could be included on the panels and there was still time to include such detail. Ms. Christoffersen confirmed she would be working with a sub-group including: Mr. Rick Conard, Mr. Steve Greene, Ms. Jan Costa, Mr. Michael Wallace and the Hudson Historical Commission member.

Mr. Hagger referenced the photos of the existing timbers along the tracks near the Section House, which were removed during construction of Bridge 127. Mr. Andreas suggested that the timbers could be used as benches on the Section House property, if ownership was transferred to the Town. Mr. Andreas recognized that the Eagle Scouts have constructed benches in Sudbury and might have interest.

### **CPC Application Updates**

Ms. Costa acknowledged that CPC received four of the five SHC CPC annual reports. The only outstanding annual report is the Indigenous Cultural Landscape report. As the original project lead is no longer on the Commission, Mr. Andreas offered to complete this report and submit it to CPC.

Ms. Costa referenced the virtual CPC Public Hearing schedule, with 1 CPA Project Applications to be presented on: 11/20/24, 12/4/24, and 12/18/24. Ms. Costa noted that Hosmer House related applications would be presented at the public hearings on 12/4/24, and 12/18/24. Ms. Costa mentioned that there did not appear to be any CPC Historic Resource applications this year requiring a SHC vote.

**Hosmer House including Cleaning and Open Houses preparation for Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Wallace explained that holiday preparations at the Hosmer House would take place the week of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Katz offered to provide decorators with access into the Hosmer House. Mr. Wallace noted that this years' theme was "Peace."

Mr. Hagger noted that a cleaning contract was in place. Mr. Durall offered to be responsible for cleaning contract aspects including payment. Mr. Andreas suggested that the cleaning schedule be made available to the Commission, so that a commissioner could be available on that date.

Mr. Hagger commented that some of the boxed archive materials have been returned to the Hosmer House art room; he expressed concern about the art room not having HVAC (heating or air conditioning controls) in place at this time. Mr. Hagger indicated that such archival materials were to remain in the Hosmer House Ballroom where there is controlled heat and ventilation, until further notice.

Commissioners agreed to have the items returned to the Ballroom.

**Hosmer House Historic Structures Report/Cultural Landscape Report project status update**

Mr. Andreas noted that an associated draft had been completed with exception of a finalized landscape report. Mr. Hagger confirmed a review meeting with Mr. Andreas, Mr. Burney and himself will take place this week, and the associated invoice will be reviewed as well. Mr. Andreas noted that Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran, will be presenting application materials at the CPC hearings.

**Phase V Historic Resource Inventory Survey Project status update**

Ms. Costa provided a summary of the scope of work from the executed contract with Ms. Stacy Spies, with a deliverable date of 11/22/24. Ms. Costa confirmed the contract scope of work included: The detailed review of (2) prototype surveys; Form A – The Wayside Inn Local District survey extended version with additional information and photographs; and the Form B – 348 Boston Post Road Building Inventory. Ms. Costa explained that Ms. Spies will provide written feedback with edits/enhancements relevant to each file. Ms. Costa indicated that Ms. Spies' resume demonstrated the completion of eleven Massachusetts historic structures survey projects.

Commissioners were pleased to see the project getting back on track.

**Cemetery Kiosk Update**

Ms. Costa confirmed that the Cemetery Kiosk RFP had been revised and distributed, and an experienced vendor submitted a proposal in an estimated amount of \$6,750.00.

**Tercentenary Markers in Sudbury**

Mr. Hagger detailed that a position had been agreed to by the SHC and SHDC at their joint meeting on 10/28/24. He summarized that the formal position had been submitted to the Town Manager's Office.

**Approval of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes**

**Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the SHC Minutes of 10/15/24, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Andreas-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Katz-aye**

**MACRIS Inventory Update for the Town of Sudbury**

Ms. Costa noted that Ms. Spies offered to rewrite the MACRIS inventory report, per MHC guidelines, for the Sudbury Town Pound to include updated research/ information from the Sudbury Historical Society Archivist. Ms. Costa confirmed she would request a written estimate for such review from Ms. Spies.

**Historic House Markers**

Ms. Katz presented an example house marker as submitted by the sign maker candidate. Ms. Costa indicated that the period between the words “Sudbury” and “Historical” was likely unnecessary. Ms. Katz stated she would mention the period to the candidate and then let him know that the Commissioners would like to use his services.

**Historical Commission Finance Reports**

Mr. Durall referenced the “Town of Sudbury – SHC 6500 September Report – Salaries,” with a current balance of \$8,266.31; minus approximately \$185.00 for completion of minutes.

Mr. Durall referenced the “Town of Sudbury – SHC 7109 September Report – Hosmer House Fund,” with a current balance of \$18,851.22

**Sudbury Doing Good Fair**

Mr. Hagger thanked Ms. Costa and Mr. Durall for joining him at the Sudbury Doing Good Fair, with special thanks to Mr. Durall for organizing SHC participation at the Fair.

**Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station**

Mr. Hagger confirmed there were no updates from Town Counsel.

**Combined SHC/SHDC meeting required as a CLG**

Mr. Hagger and Mr. Durall commented that the recent joint meeting with SHDC was great.

**Date for next meeting**

December 10, 2024

**Motion to adjourn**

**Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the SHC meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Katz-aye, Hagger-aye**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.