



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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SUDBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION REMOTE TELECONFERENCING MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Members: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Michael Wallace, Treasurer Chris Durall, William Andrea, Jan Costa, Margi Katz

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, Wallace-present, Durall-present, Andreas-present, Katz-present

Mr. Durall was elevated to voting status for tonight's meeting.

Hosmer House including Mold Spore Status

Present: Sandra Duran Combined Facilities Director

Mr. Wallace stated the consultant, Alpine, has collected several surface swabs in all levels of the house and on various different types of surfaces, which was detailed in a report dated 11/7/24. Mr. Wallace recapped the areas which had high levels of spores: first floor general store area, medium counts in southeast bedroom, high levels on the west side of the basement, the ballroom on the northwest side, and the arts storage room. Mr. Wallace reported the consultant recommended industrial cleaning of the Hosmer House.

Ms. Duran stated a mechanical engineer is scheduled to visit the Hosmer House so an interior environment can be created which will help to stop the growth of new mold spores.

Ms. Duran commented about the house having stale air, and when combined with old fabric, becomes a breeding ground for mold. She stated the root cause of the mold spores needs to be addressed before an industrial cleaning can be undertaken, at a one-time cost of \$46,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. Hagger asked if the consultants currently working on the house, could be used as additional resource to provide solutions for the mold issue.

Mr. Wallace asked if a monthly cleaning would be beneficial. Ms. Duran replied in the affirmative, as long as the cleaners use HEPA vacuums.

Mr. Wallace opined about reopening the Hosmer House and posting all reports regarding the mold issue on the SHC web site.

Ms. Katz suggested having visitors sign a waiver before going into the Hosmer House, acknowledging the presence of mold spores.

Mr. Andreas stated the preference would be to get an opinion from Town Legal Counsel before opening the Hosmer House.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 3 Comments in response to preliminary design

Mr. Hagger stated the MassDOT/design consultant has asked for related comments from the Commission.

Commission Members discussed changes made to the comments draft.

Mr. Hagger acknowledged that during the SHC site visit, two cattle crossings were discovered, and three stone culverts (one being in poor condition). He stated the Commission should ask for restoration of two of the stone culverts.

Mr. Hagger explained several other discoveries; an upright (but leaning) historic RR signal post, electric utility chamber, a battery well, and a granite monument.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the draft letter to Fuss & O'Neil, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Costa-aye, Katz-aye.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Interpretive Panels

Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Development Assistant

Ms. Costa presented the five proposed cantilevered kiosk signs for the BFRT for Commission comments.

Commission members presented various comments and recommendations on the different signs.

Mass Central Rail Trail including Timbers from Bridge 127

Mr. Hagger stated the Commission is seeking storage for the timbers until a decision is made about what to do with them. Commission members agreed to ask Mr. Burney to contact the DPW regarding storage for the timbers until the Section House is acquired by the Town.

CPC Application Updates

Mr. Hagger stated he and Mr. Durall presented the Hosmer House Collection Study Application to the CPC.

Ms. Costa reported the request was clear and the CPC seemed to understand the request for funding.

Ms. Costa reported that Ms. Duran presented the Hosmer House envelope and grounds application; the roof request application will be presented separately. She summarized the CPC presentation.

Mr. Hagger stated it is not clear how the CPC will rule on the applications.

Mr. Hagger stressed that it is in the Town's best interest to restore the entire envelope of the Hosmer House before more damage from neglect takes place.

Ms. Costa stated all five annual CPC reports have been completed and submitted.

Ms. Costa mentioned that several CPC members have suggested recouping unspent funds from past articles that have been carried forward. One such article is the cemetery article from 2004, which was rolled into a 2013 historic projects article. Another proposed article was the 2015 kiosk article. However, the kiosk (2nd generation) is an active project, and the portion of funds dedicated to home surveys will be utilized adjunctively with the Historic Structures Surveys Phase V initiative.

Mr. Hagger asked if any of the cemeteries needed to be cleaned. Ms. Katz replied the Revolutionary War Cemetery needs to be cleaned and \$15,000 is not enough to complete the job. The 2004 article does also permit for RWC restoration.

Ms. Katz stated that she would inquire about the cost to restore a headstone, and report to the Commission at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Hagger noted that a review with the consultant and Ms. Duran took place recently.

Mr. Andreas stated the distributed landscape report is mainly complete, even though it is marked as a draft copy. Ms. Costa stated the report is very detailed which helps to support the applications.

Mr. Hagger inquired if there is enough funding to make repairs to the envelope of the Hosmer House. Ms. Costa stated the Historic Commission is eligible for 10% of the CPC funds, annually plus there are historic resource reserve funds.

Phase V Historic Resource Inventory Survey Project status update

Ms. Costa reported that SHC consultant, Stacy Spies, has reviewed the Inventory Survey forms and has presented comments.

Cemetery Kiosk Update.

Ms. Costa reported a vender has been selected to manufacture the kiosk and Ms. Katz is developing a contract. Ms. Costa stated the vendors do not install the kiosks; an installer needs to be engaged.

Approval of October 28th Joint CLG meeting minutes and November 12th, 2024 SHC Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the 10/28/24 Joint meeting minutes were reviewed.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the October 28, 2024 Joint CLG meeting minutes, as edited. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

Minutes for the 11/12/24 SHC were reviewed.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve November 12, 2024 Minutes of the Sudbury Historical Commission, as edited. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

Historic House Markers

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

HC Finance Reports and vote on FY 2026 SHC Budget

Mr. Durall provided details regarding the 2026 SHC budget. He confirmed a line item was added for possible commission member enrollment expenses, and various historical programs/session that members might attend.

Mr. Hagger motioned to accept the 2026 SHC Budget, as presented. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

Review Open Meeting Law complaint and discuss response

Mr. Hagger explained the complaint involved the copying of a CPC item to a third person. He explained the Commission needs to approve the response drafted by Town Counsel.

Ms. Katz stated a review session on open meeting law would be welcomed.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the response to the Open Meeting Law complaint, as displayed. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station

Mr. Hagger stated there were no related updates at this time.

Approval of 2025 Meeting Dates

Commission reviewed the proposed 2025 meeting dates. Members agreed to move the December, 2025 meeting to December 9, 2025.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the 2025 SHC meeting dates, as amended. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

Motion to adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the SHC meeting. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Wallace-aye, Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye, Andreas-aye

There being no further business, the SHC meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.