



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

January 21, 2025 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Michael Wallace, Treasurer Chris Durall, William Andreas, 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.

Mr. Hagger recognized the work of Ms. Perry and all she does for SHC. He also recognized Ms. Costa for the work she has done on the CPC Articles.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail including Phase 2D Kiosk, Granite Post Signage and rail rests

Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Sudbury Planning Assistant, Resident/former SHC Member Steve Greene, 36 Elaine Road; Wayland Historical Commission Member Rick Conard, 25 Rich Valley Road, Wayland

Ms. Rasmussen confirmed that six (6) kiosks, four (4) of which are historical will be installed, each of which contain three (3) separate panels. She detailed that the panel displays a map of the area, the second panel contains historical information about the railroad. Ms. Rasmussen confirmed the final panel includes different aspects of the area in general.

Ms. Rasmussen detailed that the kiosk near the intersection of Peakham Road and Hudson Road will provide information about the central area of the Town. Mr. Hagger inquired about the inclusion of the warehouse. Ms. Rasmussen responded that the warehouse is owned privately.

Commission Members provided various kiosk language modifications.

Mr. Greene commented that the panels could be updated over time, when more information becomes available.

Ms. Rasmussen detailed that the kiosk in North Sudbury provides information related to the farms located in the area.

Mr. Hagger inquired about the milk shed pictured on the kiosk. Mr. Conard confirmed the pictures are from the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) and not the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT).

Mr. Greene explained that years ago cows' milk was taken to the North Sudbury Railroad Station on the Framingham/Lowell Rail Road Line in 8-quart cans from the milk shed in North Sudbury, where it was shipped to Boston.

Ms. Rasmussen detailed the locations of the different granite sign posts, and she provided photos of several of the post signs, including: Rail Rest sign, Mile Marker post, Whistle posts, Approach signal, Cattle pass, Building the RR, Bridge Boulders and Railroad Lantern.

Mr. Greene stated the equipment shown on the Building the RR sign was used to build the MA Central Rail in the 1880's.

Mass Central Rail Trail including Diamond Junction Design and rail rests

Present: Steve Greene, and Rick Conard

Mr. Conard confirmed the contractor had placed rails by the concrete rail rests on the north side of the Mass Central Rail Trail, which is north of the diamond.

Hosmer House including steps to Open

Mr. Wallace mentioned the Commission Members had concerns about legal liability and health concerns in relation to the opening of the Hosmer House to the public. He stated that Commission Members are not qualified regarding related issues, and requested opinion from Town Counsel.

Mr. Hagger commented that he reached out to the Sudbury Health Director, who was not aware of the November 2024 Hosmer House Report regarding the mold spore issue.

Mr. Hagger indicated that addressing the exterior envelope of the Hosmer House would need to be addressed to reduce moisture from entering the building.

Mr. Andreas opined about the possibility of having Jane Sciacca, author of the recently released book, "Enslavement in the Puritan Village untold history of Sudbury and Wayland;" providing a presentation at the Hosmer House when it reopens to the public.

Community Preservation Commission Application Updates

Ms. Costa itemized the three (3) Hosmer House CPC applications, noting that all three applications had been approved for inclusion on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Hagger suggested the Commission attend Town Meeting in May to assist with answering any questions related to CPC funding.

New SHC Candidate discussion

Mr. Hagger reported the candidate has rescheduled and was scheduled to attend the SHC meeting in February.

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

Mr. Hagger reported that the consultant submitted the final report, and the Cultural Landscape Analysis contained much useful information. Mr. Andreas stated the historical introduction also contained a wealth of information.

Mr. Hagger mentioned that the report included several photographs of cows around the Hosmer House.

Phase V Historic Resource Inventory Survey Project status update

Ms. Costa reported that Survey Consultant Stacy Spies, had provided the information required by the Massachusetts Historical Commission - Phase 3 historic structure draft forms.

Ms. Costa reminded the group that the CPC 2015 Historic Projects article retains funds (\$5,000) to continue the Survey of Old Homes (homes, buildings and locations).

Town-Wide Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study

Mr. Andreas informed the Commissioners that his colleague provided suggestions on the RFQ for the study, with ways to make the request more appealing to respondents.

Mr. Hagger inquired if such proposed changes would affect the related CPC grant.

Approval of 2024 SHC Annual Report

Commissioners briefly discussed the report.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the 2024 SHC Annual Report, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Wallace-aye

Approval of December 10, 2024 SHC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the 12/10/24 SHC Meeting Minutes, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Wallace-aye

Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station

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

Posting of Consultant Reports

Mr. Hagger stated there are no legal requirements regarding posting of the completed reports. Mr. Andreas stated the Collections Report access should be restricted for security reasons.

Commissioners discussed posting of reports from consultants.

Historic House Markers

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

SHC Finance Reports

Mr. Durall provided details regarding the 12/24 finance reports. He reported a balance of \$19,093.20 in the Hosmer House account and over \$7,000 in the general fund.

Related discussion took place.

MHC Mass Preservation Projects Fund

Mr. Hagger noted that the Mass Preservation Projects Fund has several criteria, which needs to be met before a project is eligible for funding; per the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Date for next meeting

Mr. Hagger announced the next meeting is scheduled for 2/18/25.

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

Mr. Hagger adjourned the SHC meeting at 9:30 PM.