



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

March 18, 2025 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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, Greenstein-present

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Signage

Present: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Assistant

Ms. Rasmussen presented updates on various BFRT signposts being fabricated, including:

- Mile Marker Post showing distance to Framingham on one side and distance to Lowell on the other side
- Railroad Lantern Post with narrative about use
- Approach Sign Post
- Whistle Post
- Cattle Pass
- Bridge Boulders
- Telegraph Pole
- Rail Rest, where spare rails were stored to be used as replacement for damaged rails

Mr. Hagger acknowledge the contributions and efforts by former HC Member Steve Greene and Wayland Historical Commissioner/Rail Historian Rick Conard.

Mr. Greenstein inquired about the "QR Code" on the kiosk. Ms. Rasmussen detailed that the code connects with the Sudbury Historical Society website where more related information is available.

Ms. Rasmussen stated BFRT Phase 2D construction would be completed in the spring and the Phase 3 BFRT Design hearing will be held in May.

Historic House Markers

Ms. Katz explained that a homeowner has requested a new house marker; the existing marker - is non-conforming in shape and size

Mr. Andreas stated the previous owners of the house researched the underground railroad in proximity to the property, which has not been verified. Mr. Hagger stated MACRIS does not include such underground railroad information on the listing.

Ms. Katz preferred not to set precedent with this plaque, stating that the only features to be included on the plaque would be the name of the house and date built.

Mr. Wallace stated if the owner wanted to provide verifiable information concerning the mentioned history, he had no problem with including such information.

Mr. Andreas suggested that such additional information could be included on a “witness stone” sign for placement in the front yard. He stated we can place the information on a witness’ stone project sign and place it in their front yard of the property, which details black history of a specific location. It was recommended that the home owner contact the SHDC for final approval.

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the historic marker signage for 71 Concord Road, to conform to current size and shape design, containing the standard information. Ms. Katz seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0-1; Hagger-aye, Wallace-aye, Katz-aye, Costa-abstain, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye

Cemetery Stone Restoration

Mr. Hagger confirmed a balance of approximately \$15,000 of restoration grant funding.

Ms. Katz mentioned that the Sudbury Historical Society Vice President Elin Neiterman provided a list of stones in the Revolutionary War Cemetery that are sinking, broken or cracked - all of which need attention. Ms. Katz stated she would gather additional data on restoration costs.

Scheduling CLG joint HC/HDC Meeting and suggested topics

Mr. Hagger presented a listing of possible joint meeting dates with the Historical Districts Commission (HDC). Those dates included: May 6, 2025; June 9, 2025; and June 10, 2025.

The HDC developed the following topic list for joint meeting discussion: Expansion of the stewardship working group to identify other stakeholders to be included in the Stewardship Meetings; to discuss a future planning strategy to utilize CPA historical resource funds and to discuss oversight of the restoration of the exterior of Hosmer House.

Mr. Wallace suggested that a joint letter authored by the HDC and HC be sent to various commissions and stake holders in Town to ascertain if those people might be interested in joining the HC/HDC as a joint project. Mr. Hagger stated the HDC Members stated the Stewardship Working Group is more focused on agricultural and cultural landscapes, rather than on conservation/preservation aspects.

Mr. Andreas stated the Sudbury Historical Society has been involved in many preservation efforts like the Loring Parsonage and an unprotected battlefield site.

Ms. Katz left the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Scout offering to volunteer on a SHC project

Eagle Scout Theo Bowne, 16 Rice Road, expressed his interest in history and asked if there were any projects he could assist with.

Mr. Wallace inquired about the parameters of such a project. Mr. Bowne stated the project must involve at least 2 people and must involve organizing project logistics and timeline, setting plans and running the project. He stated the project must benefit the community.

Ms. Costa suggested working on signs for the Historic Training Field and Haynes Garrison House.

Mr. Andreas stated that 250 years ago, the Historic Training Field was used constantly for marching practice, in anticipation of the march to Concord.

Mr. Bowne indicated he would be presenting the Haynes Garrison House project to the Eagle Scout leader/s.

Town of Sudbury Rt. 20 Corridor Study

Mr. Hagger stated the Planning Department had hired Adam Duchesneau of BSC Group to study the economic development of the Rt. 20 Corridor. Mr. Hagger confirmed that he sent a letter as a resident to Mr. Duchesneau reminding him of the Rt. 20 Corridor subject as described in the Historical Preservation Plan and the historic resources located in the Corridor.

Mr. Andreas stressed that Boston Post Road is a historic road and preserving and enhancing such historical features on the road is imperative.

Ms. Costa indicated that the HC should be represented on related discussions and meetings.

Commission members discussed the study and composed a draft letter to send to the Rt. 20 Corridor Study Consultant.

Mr. Hagger motioned to send the letter to the Rte. 20 Corridor Study Consultant, providing comments made by Commission Members at tonight's meeting. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Wallace-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye.

Hosmer House including steps to Open, Cleaning, April Open House

Mr. Hagger explained that Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran confirmed that HC could move forward with Hosmer House Cleaning by Dynamic Cleaning Company, per listed stipulations:

- The cleaning not be robust or aggressive
- HEPA vacuum filters to be used
- Ms. Duran will direct which type of cleaner to be used on surfaces
- Town will continue routine monitoring of the Hosmer House

Mr. Andreas stated the cleaning of the Hosmer House would be completed before April 15. He agreed to reach out to Ms. Duran regarding the particular Biocide cleaner to be used by the cleaning company.

Commissioners agreed that the Hosmer House Open House would take place on April 27, 2025 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Mr. Durall, Mr. Andreas and Mr. Hagger agreed to attend the Hosmer House Open House.

Mr. Hagger reported the Sudbury Public Health Director would be present at the April 15th SHC meeting to answer any questions about the mold spore topic. Mr. Wallace would be inviting Hosmer House docents to that meeting.

Commissioners discussed a request for renting the Hosmer House Ball Room for a speaking engagement in June. Ms. Costa stated that the upstairs limit for any gathering is 49 people in the ballroom.

Ms. Costa noted there was a large envelope at the Flynn Building/Historic Commission's mailbox, possibly containing Hosmer House historical materials. Mr. Durall offered to pick up the envelope.

CPC Public Forum

Ms. Costa reported a CPC Public Hearing was scheduled for April 2nd to educate and interact with the public about the Community Preservation Act, the CPC,

Revolutionary War Cemetery Kiosk update

Ms. Costa acknowledged the amazing effort by Ms. Katz in securing an agreement with the selected vendor. Ms. Costa detailed that the work would begin with design of the Kiosk signage and by the same vendor who designed the BFRT signs.

Ms. Costa stated that the Historical Society Vice President Elin Neiterman identified at a previous HC meeting that the kiosk workgroup would focus on the kiosk and main cemetery signage (2 signs). Commissioners spoke of possible installation of signage. Ms. Costa confirmed she would be speaking with the new DPW Director and with Planning Director Adam Burney.

Phase V Historic Resource Inventory Survey Project status update

Ms. Costa detailed that Part 2 of Phase V was completed last month and the consultant is now working on Part 3 – the gathering of survey information regarding the remaining 39 property surveys with an estimated completion of one month.

Ms. Costa confirmed that as part of Phase IV survey process, the Phase V surveys will be divided among the Commissioners in equal number for review, editing and recommendations.

Mr. Hagger explained that the completed survey inventories will ultimately be included on the MACRIS Listing.

Approval of February 18th 2025 SHC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the 2/18/25 SHC Meeting Minutes, as amended. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye, Wallace-aye Greenstein-aye

Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station

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

Copying and Posting of Consultant Reports

Mr. Hagger reported that Ms. Perry stated that she now has hard copies of the Hosmer House Historic Structures/Cultural Landscape and Hosmer Collection Study for Commission Members.

Historical Commission Finance Reports Finance Reports

Mr. Durall reported the Hosmer House Fund has approximately \$18,000 remaining. Mr. Durall stated the fund is being used to restore Florence Hosmer paintings. He stated there is approximately \$1,500 in the general fund at this time.

Date for next meeting

Mr. Hagger announced the next meeting is on 4/15/25.

Mr. Hagger reported that another person has expressed interest in becoming a SHC member, and she will attend next month's meeting.

Motion to adjourn

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

Mr. Hagger adjourned the HC meeting at 9:31 PM.