



Town of Sudbury

Historic Districts Commission

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MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2019

SILVA ROOM, FLYNN BUILDING, 278 OLD SUDBURY ROAD, SUDBURY, MA

Members Present: Fred Taylor, Chair; William Andreas; and Frank Riepe

Members Absent: Linda Hawes and Lee Swanson

Others Present: Daniel Nason, Department of Public Works Director; Andrew Lewis, Building Inspector; Scott Medeiros, Woodward & Curran; Gary Christelis, President of the Board of Trustees for Wayside Inn; Ursula Lyons; and Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning and Community Development

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

New Business:

1. Continued Public Hearing – Case 19-18, 47, 72, & 131 Wayside Inn Road (Town Assessor's Maps L03-0002 and L03-0001), Applicant Town of Sudbury c/o Public Works Director Daniel Nason seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace damaged bridge superstructure including, but not limited to, replacement of the parapet walls, guardrail, pavement, grading, loam/seed, and associated work.

Mr. Taylor provided a recap of the discussion from the last meeting, including conversations regarding the guardrails, parapet wall, etc. He noted the Historic Districts Commission is attempting to balance historic character with the needs of the Town and the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Mr. Nason stated the Department of Public Works is seeking comments from the Historic Districts Commission on proposed repairs for the bridge and how they would like to improve the situation, but they need to meet MassDOT's requirements. Mr. Nason noted MassDOT has commented the current state of the bridge is unsafe.

Mr. Taylor felt the Historic Districts Commission was fairly ok with concrete forms but had concerns regarding the cap on the parapet walls.

Mr. Medeiros stated it would be difficult to implement a complex style of cap as the proposed walls and cap are all one piece together.

Mr. Taylor stated there was no reason the design could not fit into any structural requirements from MassDOT.

Mr. Christelis stated the bridge fits well into the existing landscape, but everyone should be mindful of the design of this bridge which will be there for decades to come. He noted if cost was an issue, the Board of Trustees for Wayside Inn could discuss this further and perhaps make a financial contribution. Mr. Christelis indicated there were consistent speeding issues on this roadway and his board was seeking solutions to resolve the issue. He believed there were alternative solutions which were more appropriate.

Ursula Lyons of 157 Wayside Inn Road asked what the situation was with regard to the guardrails. Mr. Medeiros stated crash tested guardrail options need to be provided to MassDOT. He indicated this was a Chapter 85 jurisdictional bridge which required any work to modify, upgrade, or repair it, would be jurisdictional to the MassDOT District Engineer. Mr. Medeiros then discussed possible guardrails materials and designs.

Mr. Christelis asked about Mr. Medeiros's experience in reconstructing structures in historic areas. Mr. Medeiros stated he was not sure that was relevant.

Mr. Nason noted he had correspondence from MassDOT indicating the repair of the bridge needed to be a priority.

Ms. Lyons asked about the liability of the insurance company for the person who hit and damaged the bridge. Mr. Nason stated they were looking into pursuing compensation from the driver's insurance company but it could take years.

There was then discussion regarding the Building Inspector's jurisdiction over bridges.

Mr. Taylor noted he was not quite hearing there was only one option from Mr. Nason and felt other options should be investigated further.

Mr. Riepe stated if there was only one option to resolve the matter which was not appropriate, the Commission did not have a choice either.

Mr. Nason indicated he would prefer not to close the roadway because it would increase public safety response times, but he would close the roadway if needed.

Mr. Andreas stated he would be comfortable with a concrete wall with a granite cap and wooden guardrails.

Mr. Taylor stated he was not in favor of how the concrete was being dressed out.

Discussion ensued regarding different possible designs, MassDOT requirements, and the project's timeline.

Mr. Christelis asked how the project was different from a bridge design outside of a Historic District. Mr. Medeiros stated they would not use stone forms.

Mr. Riepe asked what type of concrete surface could work in this location.

There was then a discussion on the numerous types of possible concrete forms.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Department of Public Works could look into other possible designs.

Mr. Andreas stated he was not supportive of using steel guardrails for the project. He encouraged Mr. Nason to push for not using steel and to push MassDOT to approve other alternatives.

Mr. Nason stated he could arrange a meeting with MassDOT with a member or two of the Historic Districts Commission, but the bridge would have to be closed.

Mr. Andreas asked that someone from the Historic Districts Commission speak with the Massachusetts Historical Commission about this matter. Mr. Taylor volunteered to reach out to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Discussion occurred regarding the timeline to arrive at a solution and how long the bridge would be closed.

Mr. Christelis stated it would be absolutely catastrophic for the business of the Wayside Inn if the roadway were to be closed. He urged the Department of Public Works to hold off on closing the roadway for as long as possible.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Andreas, the Commission voted unanimously to continue the hearing to their meeting on August 29, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Miscellaneous:

- Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2019: Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Riepe seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.