



Town of Sudbury

Historic Districts Commission

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MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2019 AT 7:30 PM

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

Members Present: Chair Fred Taylor, William Andreas, Linda Hawes, Frank Riepe, and Lee Swanson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Craig Blake

Mr. Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. Chair's Response to Comments made at October 3, 2019 Meeting during Town Hall Discussion

Mr. Taylor stated the item had been addressed and there was no need to discuss it.

2. Meeting Process and Protocols

Mr. Taylor stated he wanted to make some suggestions about process and protocols for future meetings. He indicated the Historic Districts Commission was doing much of this already, but his purpose was to review procedures and where new suggestions were made to receive feedback from members.

Mr. Taylor began with a reminder that cases can sometimes be complex and it is often necessary to review them before a meeting. He stated he felt the makeup of the Historic Districts Commission was strong, and represented five distinct and valuable perspectives. To help insure all views were heard, he indicated all members should feel free to comment and add to the discussion. Mr. Taylor then outlined a general format for application hearings beginning with the Applicant's comments, members questions for the Applicant, followed by suggestions from members, if necessary, and then a vote.

Mr. Taylor suggested in complex cases it might be productive to have straw votes from members for different parts of the application. Mr. Andreas stated he felt this would be a good idea.

Mr. Riepe noted Applicants often fail to bring in sufficient and clear documents to support their applications. Ms. Hawes noted no one had been hired to replace Lillian Vert in the Planning and Community Development Department (staff support), making it difficult to keep on top of this. Mr. Taylor stated he would look into revising the application form so it more clearly stated the

need for specific materials. He also said he would start reviewing applications earlier to better insure necessary materials were included in the applications.

Mr. Taylor closed this part of the meeting by suggesting certain documents all members should be familiar with.

3. Discussion with Craig Blake Regarding Proposed Meeting with Sudbury Historical Commission and Commission on Disability

Mr. Taylor recognized Mr. Blake and asked him to outline a proposal from the Historical Commission regarding the Town Hall application. Mr. Blake stated the Historical Commission members were interested in have a three-way discussion with the Historic Districts Commission, the Commission on Disability, and Historical Commission members to fully explore the plans for the renovation of Town Hall. He explained that in the interest of time, he had been hoping to complete the application perhaps too quickly and was now open to such a joint meeting.

Mr. Andreas stated by his count there would be 17 commission members in total at the meeting and that seemed like it would pose no practical problems. He also indicated it might be a good idea for all commission members to see the letter the Historic Districts Commission wrote to the Massachusetts Historical Commission supporting the variance application.

Mr. Riepe stated the Historic Districts Commission wrote the letter but did not fully understand why this application was in the form it was in since the Historic Districts Commission had not seen the application or the accompanying drawings. Mr. Blake responded that what was sent were the plans that were shown to everyone at the last Historic Districts Commission's meeting regarding Town Hall. He stated that was the last input the Permanent Building Committee had received. Mr. Blake indicated different members gave the Permanent Building Committee different ideas, and he and the architects came away from the meeting believing there was no consensus.

Mr. Taylor stated the Historic Districts Commission's hands were tied somewhat in how definitive members could be at a general meeting if it was not a Historic Districts Commission hearing. He indicated he did not think having it as an advertised Historic Districts Commission meeting would compromise the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Taylor stated December 5, 2019 was the meeting date planned for the next Town Hall hearing and the joint meeting could be held then. He indicated members of the Commission on Disability and Historical Commission were aware of this meeting date. The Historic Districts Commission members and Mr. Blake agreed December 5, 2019 would be a good date to next discuss the Town Hall project, with a follow up Town Hall meeting date of December 12, 2019.

4. Vote on Joint Meeting with Sudbury Historical Commission and Commission on Disability

Mr. Andreas made a motion to approve holding a Joint Meeting with the Historical Commission and the Commission on Disability on December 5, 2019, and to send Mr. Blake a copy of the Historic Districts Commission's letter of support for the variance. Mr. Riepe seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0.

5. Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2019

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2019 as amended. Ms. Hawes seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0.

Having no other business, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.