



Town of Sudbury

Historic Districts Commission

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MINUTES

September 12, 2023 AT 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

JOINT MEETING WITH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Historic Districts Commission Members Present: Chair Anuraj Shah, Vice Chair Taryn Trexler, Chris Hagger, Pete Iovanella, Griff Noble and Jordan Wachs

Historic Districts Commission Members Absent: none

Historical Commission Members Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice Chair Kathryn McGrath, Diana Cebra, Jan Costa, Chris Durall, Marjorie Katz and Diana Warren

Historical Commission Members Absent: Bill Andreas

Others Present: Planning and Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry

Call To Order: Mr. Hagger called the meeting of the Historical Commission to order: Diana Cebra-present, Chris Durall-present, Kathryn McGrath-present, Jan Costa-present, Marjorie Katz-present, William Andreas-present, Chris Hagger-present, Diana Warren-present

Mr. Shah read the statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the Historic Districts Commission meeting was convened at 7:35 PM, via Zoom telecommunications mode.

Call to Order: Mr. Shah called the meeting of the Historical Districts Commission to order: Taryn Trexler-present, Chris Hagger-present, Jordan Wachs-present, Griff Noble-present, Pete Iovanella-present, Ahnu Shah-present

HDC - HC Joint Certified Local Government Meeting to discuss establishing a Stewardship Working Group as recommended in the Sudbury Master Plan.

Commissioners reviewed the "Stewardship Working Group" document, as presented in the Sudbury Master Plan.

Mr. Shah commented that when the Master Plan was drafted, there was some confusion regarding the related responsibilities associated with each Town historical entity: Historical Commission, Historical Districts Commission, Community Preservation Commission, Sudbury Historical Society, Wayside Inn Foundation, Conservation Commission, and Sudbury Valley

Trustees. Mr. Shah confirmed the purpose of the Stewardship Working Group involved having all Town entities work together in this preservation effort. Mr. Hagger detailed the distinctions between the roles of the Sudbury Historical Commission and the Sudbury Historical Districts Commission.

Mr. Andreas mentioned including a representative from the Goodnow Library, as the Library houses important Town historical documents. He mentioned representation from the Sudbury School District (SPS and LSRHS), as well.

Ms. Warren mentioned representation from the Town Clerk's Office, where historical records and documents are held. She indicated that the Planning Board should also have a place on the Stewardship Work Group, adding that Preservation Consultant Peter Benton also endorsed inclusion of the Planning Board. Mr. Shah confirmed that the Planning Board was responsible for amending and drafting related bylaws.

Ms. Warren also recommended representation by the Zoning Board of Appeals, considering that Board has part in determining historical preservation with various sites in Town.

Ms. Costa agreed that the Planning Board be included in the Group, adding that a discussion with CPC should take place regarding membership in the Group.

Mr. Hagger suggested it might be preferable to start with a smaller number of members in the Group in order to determine how to proceed; 13 representatives might reflect too large a Group. Mr. Shah agreed with Mr. Hagger, adding it might be preferable to start with a smaller group, as outlined in the Master Plan.

Mr. Hagger recognized the importance of a new Planning Director being involved in Group discussions. Mr. Shah confirmed that inclusion of the Planning Director would be essential.

Ms. Warren endorsed a more robust number of Group participants in order to increase community momentum. She stressed the importance of sharing historic planning aspects with various Town groups, and the worth of sharing particular historic planning aspects with CPC, who ultimately will vote to advance various preservation articles. She suggested a Town-wide interpretive plan so that Conservation, Planning, HDC, and historic sites around Town would reflect a more-coordinated effort. Ms. Warren indicated such a group would be more of an ad-hoc body (not a Town government body) to help define the charge for the Stewardship Working Group. Mr. Shah mentioned the body would be a cultural interest body. Ms. Warren agreed with Mr. Shah's depiction.

Mr. Wachs suggested a first step might be to draft a charter and then present it to various groups for feedback.

Ms. McGrath stated that the Stewardship Working Group of approximately 7 members (preservation-related representatives) should share their ideas and then present to other groups, such as the CPC. She recommended a representative from an indigenous group, who also have a stake in Town resources.

Ms. Cebra agreed with including indigenous representation, and stressed that community outreach was very important. She indicated it would be beneficial to get more people involved.

Mr. Andreas stated that the focus of the mission was public engagement, highlighting history and preservation.

Ms. Warren commented that the Sudbury Foundation might conduct a related forum, and recognized that the Foundation had conducted a forum concerning historical markers. She mentioned that a public charrette could be considered.

Ms. Trexler opined that the purpose of the Working Group involves the preservation topic, and a public survey addressing such considerations was presented to the community. She stressed it would be important not to duplicate the work that was already provided in the Historic Preservation Plan and the Master Plan process.

Mr. Hagger recommended that several members of the SHC and several members of the SHDC commence with drafting an outline, including statement of objectives and the charter. Mr. Shah recommended that at their prospective meetings, the SHC and the SHDC appoint two members from each Commission. Mr. Hagger agreed.

Mr. Hagger suggested that when the Planning Director is hired, the SHC and the SHDC could have their next joint meeting to discuss progress made. Mr. Shah agreed.

At 8:26 PM, Mr. Shah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Trexler seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Shah – Aye, Mr. Hagger – Aye, Ms. Trexler – Aye, Mr. Noble - Aye, and Mr. Wachs - Aye

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Sudbury Historical Commission. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. McGrath-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Cebra-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Katz-aye, Warren-aye.