



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

January 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna, Chairman; Bill Nolan, Vice Chairman; James Geraghty; Fred Merriam; Linda Prescott; Will Arvidson; Brian Stripp

Guests: Bill Harvey III, Mr. Mello, Laura Lindberg, Assistant Library Director Brian Herzog and Library Trustee Adam Schertzer

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

1. Public Input:

None.

2. Pre-Demolition Requests:

272 Old Westford Road – Ms. Lindberg stated that during the process of interior demolition of her store revealed unexpected poor construction, and three out of four walls that could not be re-used. As only the roof reconstruction had been approved by the Historical Commission, a new application was created to account for the unexpected realities. The new application was approved with a motion by Mr. Nolan, second by Mr. Geraghty, and all in favor.

3. 47 Boston Road

Mr. Harvey has not yet acquired this property but proposes to divide the lot with a “carve out” for the historic home with access on the left side to the land in back where a new home would be constructed. He proposes to restore the exterior of the existing home and changing 5-bedroom layout to a more functional 2 bedrooms and will update the Historical Commission when the sale is completed. The Historical Commission agreed that a letter of support for the carve-out plan would be appropriate where the historic home would be saved.

4. Library Survey

Mr. Herzog explained that the Chelmsford Public Library continues to survey all historical organizations in Chelmsford to find out if they can help in any way. He suggested Library resources the Commission can take advantage of:

- Be an outlet for providing current information to the public
- Host displays/exhibits of Town’s historical inventory
- Provide meeting space for large presentations or personal interviews
- Refer patrons to the Historical Commission website, records, and members
- Collaborate to make historical records available to the public
- Reach out to volunteers for large projects

5. Calls, Email, and Letters:

None

6. Minute Approval:

Deferred to a later date.

7. Budget Review:

There was \$650 in the clerk salary budget and \$1,150.70 remaining for other expenses.

8. Old Business:

Toll House Update; Opened for the rainy Prelude event, and the cookies were a hit. The Selectmen were discussing redesign of Chelmsford Common, with the Department of Public Works, but there are no plans to move the Toll House.

House Signs; The DPW has the hole dug for the North Town Hall stone National Register marker.

Historic District Update; Ms. Taverna discussed recent developments in the District.

Vinal Square Strategic Revitalization Plan; No update

Historic Preservation Zoning Changes; the Historical Commission objected to the number of units to be allowed in out-buildings, and it was agreed to discuss differences with the Planning Board's wording at a special meeting on January 22, 2019.

Proposed Rout 40 Zoning Changes; the Northstar Group is providing financial backing, but Chris Cox may no longer be with the project. A town appointed committee is looking into the best way forward.

Demolition Delay Policies and Procedures; The Building Commissioner has been invited to the next meeting to discuss changes needed to the Pre-determination form.

9. Façade Program Design Guidelines:

Nothing new.

10. New Business:

There are no historical concerns about the Billerica and Riverneck Road interchange other than the bridge reconstruction if it disrupts existing stonework.

11. Other Business:

No report on a new recording secretary

Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m., motion by Mr. Stripp, second by Ms. Prescott.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Merriam