



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna - Chairman, Fred Merriam, Brian Stripp, James Geraghty, David Vigeant, Linda Prescott (arrived after Façade Program meeting)

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

Public Comment: Kevin Lanier and John Boville presented plans for 32-34 Boston Road. They were unsure of the procedure for Historical Commission approval. The commission looked over plans, showing no demolition and keeping main structure just adding to the back. **MOTION:** Mr. Stripp made a motion to accept the plans for the addition as presented to the CHC. Seconded by Mr. Geraghty and so voted. Motion passed.

Pre-Demolition Requests: None

Calls, emails and letters: None

Minute Approval: February 11, 2020- Mr Merriam had some corrections

Motion: Mr. Merriam made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendments, seconded by Mr. Stripp and so voted.

Motion: Mr. Merriam made a motion to accept the minutes as presented for the special meeting on Feb 25, seconded by Mr. Stripp and so voted.

Budget Review:

No change from last month.

Old Business:

- a) **Toll House Update:** none
- b) **House Signs:** none
- c) **Historic District Update:** Ms. Taverna noted that a member of the Historic District Committee has resigned leaving an opening.
- d) **Vinal Square Strategic Revitalization Plan, Center Village Master Plan:** There was a meeting to explain the façade program to building owners for both Vinal Square and Center Village. Center Village: questioned why the benches and walks had not been put in, and expressed great concern over parking.

- e) **Façade Program:** Ms. Prescott reported that the meetings had taken place, the program was explained and noted that the program would end June of 2021. She further explained that the Historic District and the Historical Commission should meet to ascertain who would be approving the designs.
- f) **Communication with other committees and town departments:** Ms. Taverna noted that she had not as yet worked on this but would be taking care of this soon.
- g) **Inventory Program:** Mr. Merriam handed out the list of all properties that should be inventoried. The idea was to cut the list down to 31 or 32, as that would be the amount that the funds would cover. Discussion: there may be other houses that need to be added to the list, how should the list be pared down, Ms. Taverna noted that there are 46 houses in the 1700's and 9 in 1600's – maybe these should be the first inventoried. In 1800's there are 386. Ms. Prescott thought that it should be done by streets/areas, send Mr. Merriam any other houses to be added.
- h) **By- Law: Demolition Delay:** Ms. Taverna noted that there needs to be continued discussion re: By Law, should the CHC sponsor another warrant article in connection with the Planning Board to help preserve the historic homes. Ms. Prescott noted that there was discussion of revamping the work already done and will be coming up for discussion at the next Planning Board meeting.

Other Business:

- a) **Support of Ground Penetrating Radar study of Forefathers Burying Ground-** Mr. Vigeant noted that the water department has the penetrating radar equipment and that the CHC could make a formal request and the work could be done. Ms. Prescott noted that she would speak with the Head of Cemetery, David Boyle, as she felt there needed to be a formal request.
- b) **Merrimack River Inventory at Williamsburg-** Ms. Taverna had contacted the Mass. Historic and found that an inventory had not been done. Some research could be done to see who had pulled the permit for the work that was done. It may be possible to hire a firm through the Mass. Historic which could do an aerial inventory to gauge where Native American settlements may have been.
- c) Mr. Vigeant presented some maps of Chelmsford the members found very interesting. One of the maps is already on record but the other Mr. Merriam asked if Mr. Vigeant would share so as to put that particular map on the CHC website.
- d) Ms. Taverna noted that there were a few properties that the CHC must inspect yearly, 3 Properties, 101 Mill Road, 66 Graniteville Road, and 19 Maple Road. It was decided that the CHC would meet at the Dunklee Barn on April 14, 2020 at 4:00 P.M. to begin the inspections.

April 14, 2020 Agenda established.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Prescott and **so voted**.
Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

All documents referred to herein are on file with the CHC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy A. Metz, Clerk

Notes from “Administering Demolition Delay” Workshop- Mr Stripp attended

- Collect fees for applications? Use to fund engineering/historical review
- During the delay period the CHC needs to be actively promotion public awareness and alternatives
- Delay period should continue until all other determinations are made/permits are issued.
- Hard to quantify how many success stories across the state-some simply due to the Demolitions Delay in place!
- We need to require applicants adhere to Part B. Procedure #1 and submit a copy of the Demolition plan and a concept plan describing the proposed re-use
- Outreach to Realtors making them aware of the By-Law and passing that info to potential clients
- “Single Building” local Historic Districts?
- Historical planning, Town Master Plan
- Private non-profit Advocacy group(s)?