



## Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

### March 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna, Chairman; Linda Prescott; Will Arvidson; Brian Stripp, Fred Merriam

Evan Belansky, Community Development; Nancy Araway and Michael Raisbeck, Planning Board

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

1. Public Input: None
2. Pre-Demolition Requests: None
3. Façade Design Program – Evan Belansky

Mr. Belansky has met with the CPC and the process must be defined. The Community Development Dept. would administer the program. Applicants must meet minimum requirements. There would be deadlines to submit applications. The applicants would then meet with the Historical Commission or Historic District. Community Development would help with paperwork and inspections. No awnings, new signage or painting – restoration only. The CPC follows the Secretary of the Interior guidelines. The CPC is meeting with the State CPC Administrator on March 15, 2019.

#### 4. Calls, Emails, and Letters:

Ms. Prescott received an email that the fifth graders from Parker Middle School would like to tour the Forefathers Burying Ground, 1802 School and Toll House in June 2019.

5. Minute Approval: None
6. Budget Review: No Change
7. Old Business:

a) **Toll House Update:** None

b) **House Signs:** Ms. Prescott reported that 12 house signs may be needed soon. Mr. Arvidson is working on the architecture for the inventories in progress.

c) **Historic District Update:** Problem with paperwork with one owner in the district. Delayed due to paperwork being lost.

**d) Vinal Square Strategic Revitalization Plan:** None

**e) Planning Board Historic Preservation Zoning Changes:** Historical Commission and Planning Board members discussed the provisions of the proposed zoning changes. Approximately 500 properties could use this bylaw as presently worded. We should possibly limit the time frame to prior to 1950. The demand for higher density development is seen everywhere – land has become more valuable than the buildings on the land. Mr. Belansky suggested that the location of the neighborhoods is important – maybe this could also be part of the proposed bylaw. (Maybe create overlays or designate certain roads as we now do with scenic roads). The proposed bylaw could also apply only to properties that have been inventoried. For properties built prior to 1944 and that qualify for three apartments, there are 2 zoned RA, 455 zoned RB, and 2 zoned RC. Ms. Araway will send the list to Mr. Belansky to draw up GIS maps.

**f) Proposed Route 40 Zoning Changes:** None

**g) Discussion of Demolition Delay Policies and Procedures:** Mr. Belansky and the CHC discussed the demolition delay problems experienced. He suggested that the Building Dept. give the CHC a list of approved projects. We could also hold seminars for contractors on what's needed with the Building Dept. sending out the invitations. There was a discussion on what the CHC has the authority to approve – we don't approve plans, we just document what is going on the site.

## **8. Forefathers Burying Ground:**

Sandra Day from Parker School called Ms. Prescott to again tour as mentioned above.

## **9. Other Business:**

No report on a new recording secretary

## **10. Established April 16, 2019 Agenda**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Taverna