



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

January 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna - Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, Brian Stripp

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

Public Comment: None

Pre-Demolition Requests:

1. 29 Gorham Street- Shawn and Lauren McDonough: It was stated that the house was damaged by fire and that they have put in a request for demolition. Ms Prescott noted she may have done some research on that property. Ms. Taverna stated she would email the McDonough's if that was the case, if not they would have to have an inventory done. Ms. Taverna will also send them the names of those who will do inventories. 29 Gorham Street will be put on the agenda for the February meeting.
2. 236 and 240 Groton Road- Wen Lan Liu: It was stated that she would like to demolish both houses in order to put up 12-13 Duplexes for 26 Units on 8.44 total acres. The committee explained that the properties would need to have inventories done and the properties would be put on the agenda for the February meeting

Calls, emails and letters: None

Minute Approval: No Minutes for the December 2019 meeting at this time.

Budget Review:

Old Business:

- a) **Toll House Update:** Prelude done and the house cleaned for another season.
- b) **House Signs:** Mr. Stripp noted that he had delivered the house sign for 47 Gay Street and that the owner was thrilled.
- c) **Historic District Update:** Ms. Taverna noted that the plan for the Odd Fellows building is a 100-seat restaurant with apartments above. The façade will be restored to an earlier historic look. Fiske House - there will be some removal of outer buildings/added areas. It was also noted that the Committee should take a look at the stone walls on that property. There will be a Public hearing on Feb. 3, 2020 re: 1 Billerica Road at 7:15 and Odd Fellows Building at 8:00.
- d) **Vinal Square Strategic Revitalization Plan:** none

- e) **Façade:** The program was discussed at a CPC meeting. Mr. Belansky is proposing that the funds be transferred between the Center and Vinal Square if applications are not made for the full amount for each village. Ms. Prescott noted that the Historical Committee must stick to the program as it is written and not go by what might have been said during the presentation. Ms. Prescott also noted that the Façade Program had been approved by CPC, Fin Com, and Town Meeting. It is a one-year program. **MOTION:** Ms. Prescott made a motion that the Façade Program be administered as it is written and voted on. Seconded by Mr. Merriam and **so voted.**
- f) **Communication with other committees and town departments:** Ms. Taverna noted that the property at 248 Dunstable Road had been demolished as the Building Inspector had deemed it unsafe. She noted that the Building Inspector should have notified the Historical Committee. Ms. Prescott noted that she will compile a list of structures over 75 years for the Building Inspector. Mr. Stripp noted that a meeting should be set up with the Building Inspector for the purposes of communication.
- g) **Inventory Program:** Ms. Prescott noted that at the present time there is \$14,719.00 of CPC funds available for inventories. It was stated that a list of possible structures to be inventoried should be compiled. Old Westford Road, Dalton Road, South Chelmsford, Manning Road, and Riverneck Road were all suggested as possible inventory sites. The consensus was that, if available, the researcher should be Stacy Spies as she has done satisfactory work for the committee in the past.
- h) **Chelmsford Records Preservation Project:** Mr. Merriam and Ms. Prescott have taken photographs of the Vital Statistic Records to help preserve them. **MOTION:** Mr. Stripp made a motion to support the Records Preservation Program as presented to the CPC, seconded by Mr. Merriam and **so voted.**

Other Business:

Discussion of Solar Panels on Historic Buildings: Ms. Taverna stated that the Historical Committee needs to come up with plans for solar panels on historic structures. After discussion it was noted that the committee cannot ask owners not to put them on, but that they should be as non-visible as possible and that the control panel be covered and not visible from the street; most preferably using trees and plants.

9 Acton Road- The property seems to be in a holding pattern at the moment as they decide what the property will be used as.

1 Billerica Road- See above in the Historic District.

Ethics Course: Ms. Taverna noted that the members are required to take the Ethics Course, the members present noted that they were up to date. Ms. Taverna will check with the members not present.

Massachusetts Historic Administration of Demolition Delay By-Laws and Ordinances: will be presented as a workshop on February 5, 2020, 10-12. Hosted by the town of Dartmouth. Mr. Stripp brought this to the attention of the committee and noted that he would be attending. Ms. Prescott also noted that she would like to attend.

Website: Mr. Merriam noted that the website at the moment is not secure. He has spoken to the owner of the site and is waiting to have it secured. Mr. Merriam also asked for suggestions for placement on the website.

February 11, 2020 Agenda established.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Prescott and **so voted.**
Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy A. Metz, Clerk