



# Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

Virtual Meeting, online due to Covid-19

February 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna-Chairman, Brian Stripp-Vice Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, David Vigeant. Ken Lefebvre-Select Board

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

1. **Public Input:** Correspondence with Mary Bywater Cross from the state of Washington re: Pelatiah Fletcher; interested in finding the house that corresponds with this person. Ms. Prescott will respond.

2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:** None

3. **Congregational Church in North Chelmsford Signage and Lighting-** Jim DeProfio

Mr. DeProfio thanked the commission for their guidance after their original meeting, it helped with the process. He noted that the posts would be granite coming from LeMasurier's quarry in North Chelmsford, as well as a Granite planter below the sign. The sign company was also local, Express Signs, and Crowe Electric will be doing the electric work. The Church Corporation has approved the funding and the project should begin some time in April. Ms. Taverna asked what kind of material the sign was being made of, it was reported, vinyl. She also asked about lighting; Mr. DeProfio noted that there would be up lighting from inside the planter. Mr. Merriam asked if the sign would be rust proof, yes. Mr. DeProfio also noted that there were several projects being done at the church to go along with the sign, painting the exterior was key, there is a project to involve the youth of the Church, Art in the Yard; a series of 4 large plant pots painted and decorated for each season. A Rain Garden on the Shaw Street side is in the works and will be built in Memory of George L. Merrill. Mr. DeProfio again thanked the Commission for their guidance. **MOTION:** Mr. Merriam moved to approve the Sign project for CCNC seconded by Mr. Stripp and so voted. **Motion carries.**

4. **House Signs, National Register Signs, District House Signs**

Mr. Stripp noted that he has the sign ready for 47 North Road, Eliza Hutchins. He also noted that he needed an email address to correspond with the owners to bring the sign to them. Ms. Prescott noted that she will have the packet of information for the owner almost finished and will have the packet ready for them to be delivered with the sign.

5. **Budget-** Ms. Taverna noted that she had received the budget but that it was outdated, she will obtain an updated version and email it to the members.

6. **Emails, telephone calls, letters**

Mr. Merriam noted that he had received an email from Lisa Marrone, who wanted to put together an historical tour map of Chelmsford. Mr. Merriam noted that he had found on the website there was a Tour Map done for the Bi- Centennial Celebration in 1976 and could be found on the website under

events. Ms. Prescott and Ms. Taverna both agreed to research this “map” and identify houses that were lost since 1976. Update and post again as part of the ongoing Historic preservation initiative. There was some discussion re: the use of pictures and having them reprinted on a larger scale. Mr. Merriam noted that he has the paper already. It was agreed that this was a good project.

## **7. Historic Preservation-What Can We Do?**

Ms. Taverna noted that Mr. Arvidson was working on a brochure, this could be tabled until the March meeting. Ms. Taverna also noted that the Bi-Centennial booklet may be updated and put on the website.

Discussion: other ideas, possibility of Exhibits in the library, pictures and follow up on Face book pages.

## **8. Landmark Sites**

Ms. Prescott noted that there was a federal program for landmark sites that are designated by the Park Service. Sites such as Fiske House, Odd Fellows, Forefathers Burial Ground etc. could all fit into this category. She asked if it would be something the commission should pursue? Ms. Taverna asked if there was a link? Ms. Prescott will send the link to the members to research and discuss at the March meeting.

## **9. Link on Website to Technical Preservation at National Park Service-**

Mr. Merriam noted that the link was on the website now.

## **10. 91-93 Billerica Road-**

Mr. Stripp noted that the grace period for Mr. Harvey to provide an inventory for this property had expired on January 13, 2021. There would no longer be any back dating. Mr. Harvey will need to provide the commission with an inventory to move forward. Ms. Taverna asked if there was a consensus as to just leaving it for now, Mr. Stripp felt that there should be a letter sent explaining that the grace period was over, thus holding them accountable for what they were supposed to do. It was decided that nothing would be done at the moment. There was some discussion of 4 Bartlett Street; there was a plan to put retail shops on the first floor and apartments above. Mr. Vigeant asked if the owners were aware of the significance of that house and it would be a shame to lose it.

## **11. Website-**

Mr. Merriam noted that he had been thinking of a way to transition the websites as he will not be able to maintain them forever! He has been looking at other websites and wondered if using Civic Plus would work for the commission. Mr. Stripp asked if there was a fee for Civic Plus. Mr. Merriam noted that he thought the town would pay for this. Mr. Merriam will explore Civic Plus and see if it will be doable for the CHC. Ms. Prescott asked if the wording on the website regarding demolition should read that the information should read “acquire and submit” rather than “purchase” an inventory. The commission agreed, Mr. Merriam will update the words soon.

Mr. Merriam also noted that there was still some discussion re: Steadman vs Stedman Street. Mr. Langler had submitted a 60-page report on this matter. It was noted by Ms. Prescott that Town Meeting had approved the "a" in Steadman and that if there were to be any changes Mr. Langler would have to submit a Civilians petition to Town Meeting to have it changed.

**12. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Stripp noted that he had sent some corrections to the clerk, Ms. Taverna had also sent corrections, and the clerk has made the corrections. **MOTION:** Mr. Stripp moved the accept the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as amended, seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted. **Motion Carries.**

**13. Set agenda for March 9, 2021**

Ms. Taverna noted; Landmark Sites, Historic preservation, Inventory project and website will be on the agenda.

**Additional Comments:** 1 Billerica Road, Fiske House, Odd Fellows and the condominium project had been updated. The Condo project would now be one floor less.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted. Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 8:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy A. Metz, Clerk