



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Taverna - Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, Brian Stripp, James Geraghty, Will Arvidson, David Vigeant

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

Public Comment: None

Pre-Demolition Requests:

1. 29 Gorham Street- Shaun McDonough and Doug Hausler : presented a letter from Building Commissioner, allegedly stating that the building should be torn down. Mr. McDonough stated that he has been trying to have the demolition request approved, the members of the commission noted that there needed to be an inventory done and that the Chair had sent an email with the information to have this accomplished. Mr. McDonough stated that they did not understand the email. After discussion it was agreed that the Commission would hold a special meeting in 2 weeks to expedite the permit. Ms. Taverna will send the information again and set a meeting for Feb 25, with just 29 Gorham Street on the agenda.
2. 236 and 240 Groton Road- Wen Lan Liu: Not Present

Calls, emails and letters:

Ms. Prescott stated that she had had some conversations with Evan Belansky, Community Development, and that a commission member should attend the Village meetings, one March 2 and the other March 10 to help explain the Façade Program. Ms. Prescott volunteered to attend.

Minute Approval: December 2019 meeting: Motion: Ms. Prescott made a motion to accept the Dec. minutes with one correction that Selectman be added to Mr. Lefebvre, seconded by Mr. Stripp and so voted.

Motion: Mr. Stripp made a motion to accept the minutes as presented for the January 14, 2020 meeting, seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted.

Budget Review:

There is \$547.00 remaining for salary and \$883. 00 for other expenses

Old Business:

- a) **Toll House Update:** none
- b) **House Signs:** none
- c) **Historic District Update:** Ms. Taverna noted that the plan for the Odd Fellows building has been approved at Public Hearing. It was noted that the owners have really done a wonderful job in planning to restore the building in keeping with the history of the Odd Fellows Building.
1 Billerica Road- The plans have been updated and the owners have incorporated many of the suggestions given to keep the building in keeping with the Center Village look. This project is also approved
Fiske House and Summer kitchen: still in progress
- d) **Vinal Square Strategic Revitalization Plan, Center Village Master Plan:** members of the Center Village expressed concerns about parking, and will be meeting.
- e) **Façade Program:** none
- f) **Communication with other committees and town departments:** Mr. Stripp stated that he had printed up a list of all Boards, committees, commissions that should be in communication with Historical Commission. Discussion noted that there is good communication with most, and there should be a meeting with the ZBA and Building department to insure good communication. Building Dept. would have to be a morning meeting.
- g) **Inventory Program:** Ms. Prescott noted that at the present time there is \$14, 719.00 of CPC funds available for inventories. Mr. Merriam sent out a list of all properties he feels the Commission felt should have inventoried. Ms. Taverna suggested that the members review the list and pick the 20 most urgent properties to inventory for the next meeting.
FYI- Mr. Merriam noted that the houses over 75 years old list has been updated and put on the over 75 years webpage.
- h) **By- Law: Demolition Delay:** Mr. Stripp shared the notes and presentation of the workshop he attended and shared 9 bullet points: (see attached sheet), his suggestion that the Commission use these 9 points. Mr. Arvidson suggest that a booklet of welcome, be given to new owners of homes over 75 years old with tips, ideas and historical information.
Motion: Mr. Stripp made a motion to extend the Demolition Delay By-Law from 12 months to 18 Months, seconded by Ms. Prescott.
After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stripp to table the previous motion, seconded by Mr. Merriam and so voted.

Other Business:

9 Acton Road- Ms. Taverna noted that this property has appeared before the Planning Board and there are many issues.

March 10, 2020 Agenda established.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Prescott and **so voted.**
Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy A. Metz, Clerk