



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

Virtual Meeting, online due to Covid-19

March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Deb Taverna-Chairman, Brian Stripp-Vice Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, David Vigeant, Jeffrey Merrill Guest: Nancy Araway

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:30 PM

1. **Public Input:** None
2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:** None
3. **House Signs, National Register Signs, District House Signs:**

Mr. Stripp noted that he has delivered both of the signs that were ready. Ms. Prescott noted that she has finished 47 North Road and has begun working on the inventories for 83, 85, and 89 Dunstable Road. She reported that they should be finished by the end of the week. There was some discussion re: 73 Gorham Street, 190 North Road and 94-96 Middlesex Street/Church Street.

Ms. Taverna welcomed the new member to the commission: Jeff Merrill.

4. **Budget:** At present there is \$600 for salary, ends July 1, 2021 Other; \$935. It was noted that that most likely will be used up for the upcoming signs.

5. **Emails, Telephone Calls, Letters:**

Mr. Merriam noted he had heard from Doug Gordon re: Sears Kit Houses. Ms. Prescott sent hints as to how to identify a Sears Kit House. Ms. Prescott noted that there were a number of these houses built in the Westlands.

6. **Historic Preservation-What Can We Do**

-Ms. Prescott updated information on the Inventory Project reporting that Mr. Belansky would be doing the Request for Proposal. She also noted that it may be a good idea to put this on the List Serve. Ms. Taverna agreed it was a good thought.

-Ms. Taverna noted that she had looked through the Bi-Centennial Tour book and noted that there were originally 129 properties listed and since then 18 have

been lost or moved. She will draft an article to post on the Face Book Chelmsford News site for approval by the commission at the April meeting.

-Ms. Taverna noted that there should be some work done to the Town Demolition By-Law 16 – 2, B. The commission needs to look at the wording to be sure that it is clear what must be done. Discussion: should state there must be an inventory completed by a professional historic preservationist according to state guidelines. Ms. Taverna will have a rough draft for the April meeting.

-Mr. Merriam was asked about a tour update, and it was noted somewhere there may be a tour of North, Ms. Taverna will look for it. Discussion: It would be a good idea to put together some tours of the Historic Districts, and break them up into sections and post on the website.

-Ms. Prescott noted that a course on Historic Preservation would be run soon and it may be good for the commission members to attend. She will get the information.

7. Landmark sites:

Ms. Prescott explained that she had done some research and found that the cemetery does not qualify, nor are any of the other sites, the “residents” were not famous enough. The sites are on the register and are protected, but they do not qualify as landmark sites.

8. Website:

Mr. Merriam reported that he had secured the site. The site is hosted by Blue Host and he did have to speak with Ted, the town tech person, to have him contact them for this purpose. Mr. Merriam is very pleased that the site is now secure and the “red notice-site not secure” has been removed.

Mr. Merriam also noted that he has the site in good shape and it could be transferred very easily for someone else to run.

Mr. Merriam reported that he had gone through the list of “best Practices” of historic websites and updated this site to reflect this. Ms. Taverna and the commission thank him for his dedication and work on the website.

9. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that corrections had been made by Mr. Stripp and Ms. Taverna.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to accept the minutes of February 9, 2021, seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted. **Motion Carries.**

10. Set agenda for April 13, 2021:

Preservation, website

Ms. Araway asked if the Historic Commission has done anything with the “Historic Culture” of Chelmsford. Discussion: master plan could be updated with culture issues, are pieces of the culture endangered, i.e., farming. Commercial Farming and agriculture, still run the Farmer’s Market and get good a turnout, July 4th Parade-has been part of the town for more than 100 years, but 50 years consecutive, Open spaces: Heart Pond, Freeman Lake, Southwell field etc.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Vigeant and so voted. **Motion Carries.**

Ms Taverna closed the meeting at 8:48 P.M.