



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

Virtual Meeting, online due to Covid-19

April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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2021-05-12

8:47 AM

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

TOWN CLERK

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

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:31 PM

1. **Public Input:** None
2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:** 225, 227, 231 and 249 Groton Road, Ms. Wenlan Lu was present to discuss the application for demolition of the Groton Road properties. Mr. Vigeant asked about the house on 235, did they own that property as well? Ms. Lu explained that they did own the property but that the house was in good shape and they planned on keeping that dwelling in place. Mr. Stripp asked what the plans were for the area? Ms. Lu noted that they were still in the planning stages and have not been to the Planning Board yet, however their initial plans were to construct 2 Duplexes, and a single duplex with a 2 or 3 story storage rental area. Mr. Stripp asked what the total acreage was. Ms. Lu noted that the 4 properties in question was 3.4 acres. Mr. Merriam asked about the question of an access to Route 40 from there. Ms. Lu explained that they had met with town offices and noted that Newport could not open that access. Ms. Taverna asked that when the plans were finalized could Ms. Lu share those plans with the Commission for the records.

MOTION: Mr. Vigeant moved to accept the application for demolition of the houses on 225, 227, 231, and 249 Groton Road, seconded by Mr. Merriam and so moved. **Motion carries.** Ms. Taverna will bring the paperwork to Town Office tomorrow, April 14, 2021.

3. **House Signs, National Register Signs, District House Signs:**

Mr. Stripp noted that he has ordered signs for 85, and 89 Dunstable Road, and 1 Plumb Street. Ms. Prescott noted that she was waiting for the architecture information for the home at 83 Dunstable Road. Mr. Stripp noted that he has the sign for 47 North Road is ready to go, just waiting on pictures. Mr. Stripp noted that he was working on the sign for 58 Church Street, noting that it would have the Circa date as it was unclear of the

original date. Mr. Stripp had turned the invoices in to Town Hall. Ms. Prescott asked what the cost for each sign was? Mr. Stripp noted that it was \$47.00 per sign we should clarify, he orders the blanks @ \$31.35 ea. and when he orders a sign for a particular house, it is an additional \$47.00. Bob Leonard @ Ould Colony Artisans who finishes the signs.

It was noted by a few members, that there were signs around town that were in need of redoing. Mr. Stripp noted that if they send him the addresses, he will make contact and see if they would like a new sign.

4. **Budget:** At present there is \$380 for salary, Ms. Taverna noted that there was a \$269.89 that she was not sure what it was. Ms. Prescott noted that the Town Meeting would vote on that at the next meeting. Ms. Taverna noted that amount was less than usual and she would look into the matter. \$265.00 has been expended and there was \$935.00 remaining.

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

Mr. Stripp asked if the other members received an email from Susan Hamilton re: demolition of a barn at 60 Mill Road. The other members had not received the email. Mr. Stripp noted he would forward the email. The email contained pictures and he noted that the barn was in pretty rough shape. Mr. Merriam asked when he had received that email. March 26, 2021 at 12:15 pm.

Mr. Stripp also received an email from James Cobb re: a sign for 35 Middlesex Street.

Ms. Prescott had received a call from a realtor in Billerica representing a couple buying the property at 25 Boston Road. There were many questions re: rules for historic properties. Ms. Prescott noted that her "take away" was that the Commission should prepare a handbook for realtors.

Mr. Merriam had spoken with Marilyn Byam Quinn re: Liberty Hall at 318 Acton Road as it is presently up for sale. Discussion.

6. **Town Tours:**

Ms. Prescott spoke about working from the tour done for the bi-centennial Historic site guide, it needed to be updated. The tour needs to be divided up, to appropriate cars, pick key houses, and give links for more information. North has been done, she noted that West Chelmsford could be on the national register, which will be noted on the guide. Ms. Taverna noted that it was too long to walk, a good idea would be to break down into small groupings.

Discussion: Geo-caching, Scavenger Hunts.

It was noted that the PTA were no longer sponsoring the Hunt. Ms. Taverna noted that the Commission could possibly budget some monies to bring it back, develop a certificate. Ms. Prescott asked about motivation, possible prizes.

There could be a series of hunts, including different sections.

Ms. Taverna will see if she can find information of past Scavenger Hunts.

7. Historic Preservation-What Can We Do

Ms. Taverna noted that Mr. Arvidson was working on a brochure and that she would check on the progress and maybe the members could finish it.

Ms. Prescott noted that she had seen a program in Somerville that might be a good idea. Storytellers dressed in period costume reading stories corresponding with their period clothing. Possibly work with the Children's Library.

Mr. Stripp noted that the course they had taken had sent a link with Historic Preservation and what to do, with follow up ideas. Mr. Stripp will share the link with the members.

Ms. Taverna noted that it would be advantageous to send letters of welcome to new homeowners of Historic Homes, explaining the Commissions goals and information for them to use.

Ms. Taverna asked about using the Inventory Forms in the H.S. History classes.

Ms. Taverna noted that Milton was the only town that currently has a 24-month Demolition Delay By-Law, some towns have 18 months.

Ms. Taverna asked the members to think about what they would like to see on a Scavenger Hunt, and she would work on a certificate. Ms. Prescott felt that it should be done before the end of school so students could do over the summer and have it due in September.

8. Approval of Minutes

Corrections were discussed. The Clerk will make the changes and Ms. Prescott will correct and forward the changes. The Clerk will make the changes and resubmit the March 9, 2021 minutes for approval at the next meeting on May 11.

9. Website:

Ms. Prescott felt that the Demolition-Delay information should not be the first item on the website, the website should lead off with the Historic Commission; who we are, what we do, a more positive start. The members agreed, Mr. Merriam will "shuffle" things around to make more positive.

10. Review of Demolition Delay Bylaw Wording Change

Ms. Taverna noted she had made changes and sent them to the members to review. The members agreed that they liked the new wording and that the changes would be forwarded to Mr. Haverty, Town Counsel, for approval, then to Mr. Cohen, Town Manager for “polishing” of the changes and then to Town Meeting.

11. Set Agenda for May 11, 2021

Ms. Prescott asked if the new member Mr. Merrill had received the Historic Commission notebook. Ms. Taverna will get one for him.

MOTION: Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted.

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 8:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy A. Metz, Clerk