



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

May 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Deb Taverna-Chairman, Fred Merriam, Jeffrey Merrill, Linda Prescott, Kelly Daniell

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:01 PM

1. **Public Input:** None
2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:**

117 Gorham Street- no one present to speak

18-20 Chelmsford Street-Joanne and Michael Sargent

The Sargents shared their plans for 18 Chelmsford Street. After some discussion, Mrs. Sargent asked a question about requirement of getting an inventory. Ms. Taverna noted that the Historical Commission only needs to sign off on demolition and that she would need to speak with Debra Belden of the Historic District Commission. Ms. Taverna noted that the Historical Commission appreciated that they were sharing their plans. Ms. Taverna noted that when the application for demolition has been received, 18-20 Chelmsford Street would be put on the agenda.

53 Brick Kiln Road- Carol Woods

Ms. Woods shared some frustration with having an inventory of the property done. After discussion, it was decided that Ms. Prescott would do a deed search and see if the process could be expedited. Ms. Prescott noted that if the house had been built after 1940's there would be no issue. Ms. Woods turned in the application for demolition and Ms. Taverna noted that 53 Brick Kiln Road would be put on the agenda for June.

203 Boston Road- Bob McNamara, not present

Ms. Taverna noted that there was still no structural engineering report for the property. She also spoke about making sure that there was a consensus among the group that during walk-through's there should be no discussion by the commission and to be sure to save the conversation until the group met later.

It was noted that the Building Inspector, Mr. Negron did not agree that the property is a safety risk.

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

Mr. Merrill noted that Karen Nichols of 96 Middlesex Street had asked about the sign for her property. Ms. Prescott noted that it may take a little longer and maybe up to a year to have the information gathered because records are being preserved and digitized.

4. **Historic District Updates:** Ms. Taverna shared that there is an Eagle Scout project- A Fire Pit.

There are also 2 properties in the district that are working on covering their mechanicals on the roof.

5. **Toll House Opening**

Ms. Taverna noted that the Farmers Market would be starting up Memorial Day weekend running through Columbus Day and that opening the Toll House should be done. She asked if there were other members who could open the house, Saturdays 12-4, as one of the Commissions goals is to share history with the public. The Toll House is to be opened for 3 weeks and the School House is to be opened the July 4th week. Next meeting the group will discuss filling in the Saturdays.

6. **Budget-** No budget

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

Ms. Prescott noted that she had received an email from Stacey Spies re: payment for the inventories done. **MOTION:** Mr. Merriam moved to approve payment for the inventories done, seconded by Mr. Merrill, and so voted. **Motion carried.**

8. **Local Certified Government:**

Ms. Prescott noted that she will need resumes from all members including the clerk and from the members of the Historic District Commission. She also noted that there should be joint meetings in the future.

9. **Historic Preservation-What Can We Do?** Restriction vs Easement

Ms. Prescott asked the group if they would adopt the use of preservation easement instead of restriction. Her reasoning being that easing those into preservation, rather than restriction, which has a negative connotation. After discussion it was decided that some research into definitions and the use of these terms needed to be done. The group would discuss again at the next meeting.

10. **4 Bartlett Street Inventory Update-** No report

11. **Election of Officers-**

MOTION: Mr. Merriam moved that Ms. Taverna remain as Chairperson for the year, seconded by Mr. Merrill, and so voted. **Motion carried.**

MOTION: Mr. Merriam moved to elect Ms. Prescott as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Daniell and so voted. **Motion carried.**

12. **Approval of Minutes**

- **MOTION:** Mr. Merriam moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022, as amended seconded by Ms. Daniell and so voted. **Motion carries.**

13. **Set Agenda for June 14, 2022**

Toll House Schedule
Restriction vs Easement
4 Bartlett

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

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 9:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy A. Metz, Clerk