



## Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

Virtual Meeting, online due to Covid-19

### May 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**Members in Attendance:** Deb Taverna-Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, Jeffrey Merrill, Deidre Connolly-Planning Board Liaison

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:34 PM

1. **Public Input:** None
2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:** None
3. **House Signs, National Register Signs, District House Signs:**
  - Ms. Taverna reported that Mr. Stripp has delivered several signs to deliver and is working on several more. Ms. Prescott noted that there were 4 or 5 more in the works.
  - Ms. Taverna noted that she had been driving on Alyssa Drive and did not see the sign on The Pierce Family Farm. She thought that the Commission should send a letter reminding them, that this was supposed to have been done.
4. **Budget:** At present there is \$78.64 for salary, Ms. Taverna noted that there was \$794.00 remaining, which will cover the signs.
5. **Emails, Telephone Calls, Letters:**
  - Mr. Merriam noted that he has directed some questions to the Historical Society website.
  - Ms. Taverna noted she had received an email in reference to the Communication tower on Washington Street. It was stated that the tower is already up and was a non-issue.
  - Ms. Taverna had received a request from Mr. John Arsenault re: 113 Gorham Street repairs. Ms. Taverna stated that the repairs were not under CHC jurisdiction so therefore he did not need to appear before the Commission.

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

- Ms. Taverna asked Ms. Prescott the status of the Historic Scavenger Hunt. Ms. Prescott reported that she had received a copy, and it was geared more for 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. Mr. Merriam and Ms. Taverna asked to be sent copies as there may be some sites added or subtracted. Ms. Prescott asked about logistics as to how the Hunt would be run; will there be prizes, how will they show-pictures?
- Ms. Prescott noted that she has a history of Chelmsford for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders and would be willing to put it online. She will be sending this to Ms. Taverna to look over.
- It was asked if there was a children's coloring book of Chelmsford History? Mr. Merriam noted that there was one. Ms. Prescott asked if the coloring book could be put online for individual use.
- Ms. Prescott also asked if the Historical Society could open the General Store at the Byam House possibly on a once-a-month basis, add some penny candy and bags for fun! Mr. Merriam noted that there were a few new members he may be able to utilize for this purpose. Ms. Taverna asked that they stay away from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday-Please!
- Ms. Prescott is working on the tours. She noted that she was looking for sponsors interested in putting them online. A concern for the tour is that there are no sidewalks in some areas and that it should be a family affair in cars to reduce any danger.
- Interesting Fact: Ms. Prescott noted that 58 Church Street has a "twin" 157 Main Street
- Ms. Prescott asked Mr. Merriam about recorded interviews he had done with some of the "old timers". Would it be possible to sponsor a monthly "Chelmsford Was" type of event, posting these interviews?

## 7. **Review Demolition Delay Bylaw working Change**

Ms. Taverna reported that she had sent the wording change to Mr. Haverty-Town Counsel, and that he approved them. She will prepare the Bylaw change for Fall Town Meeting. Ms. Prescott asked if there should be some P.R. done?

## 8. **Planning for Discussion with the Building Department:**

- Mr. Jose Negron is the new Building Inspector.
- Mr. Stripp had emailed Ms. Taverna stating he would like the commission to work more closely with Mr. Negron.
- Ms. Prescott noted that in the past, some of the former building inspectors would give the commission the requests.

- Mr. Merriam noted that all the forms were done online. The bylaw is clear and that the lists of properties are posted and in the town office.
- Mr. Merrill asked about a computer alert noting that the property is on the list. It was explained that there is a system of checks and balances, and the lists are in Town Offices.
- Mr. Merrill asked about commercial properties, are they listed as houses are? It was noted that there is in some form, but may be unclear.
- Ms. Taverna noted that this agenda item would be fine-tuned at the next meeting in advance of inviting Mr. Negron to a meeting.

#### **9. Approval of Minutes**

- March 9, 2021 Mr. Merriam moved to accept the amended minutes of March 9, seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted.
- April 13, 2021 Mr. Merriam moved to accept the amended minutes of April 13, seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted

#### **10. Welcome**

Ms. Taverna welcomed Deidre Connolly as the new liaison with the Planning Board. Ms. Connolly asked about the mill, at the Russell Mill Site (Mill Stream). Ms. Prescott noted that the property is an historical site but that the mill itself had been all redone and was not of historic significance. Mr. Merriam noted that there are 4 books on Chelmsford, and one of the books, "North and West Chelmsford" has a whole section on the mills and is an interesting read.

#### **11. Set Agenda for June 8, 2021**

Discussion for Building Dept.

Ms. Stansfield noted that the Selectmen's Room is ready for in-person meetings and is set up for zoom for the public.

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

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 8:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy A. Metz, Clerk