



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

August 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Deb Taverna-Chairman, Fred Merriam, Jeffrey Merrill, Linda Prescott, David Vigeant, Pan Du

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:40 PM

1. **Public Input:** None

2. Introduction of new member; Pan Du. Mr. Du introduced himself and explained he had lived in Chelmsford in the 90's and has returned due to his job. Member of the U. S. Air Force, and Millipore Sigma. He was a member of the Historic Commission in Grafton and enjoys the work. Welcome Mr. Du.

3. School Street Freight House- It has come to the Commissions attention that the building is available. Discussion: if acquired, move? Who will care for the building, what uses would it have. There may be CPC money but there must be a purpose for the building. Move to the Garrison House, would be part of education. If left on current site, there is the problem of security, it is the last railroad building in Chelmsford. There needs to be an evaluation. Will take a lot of restoration. **MOTION:** Mr. Vigeant moved that the Historic Commission pursue the possibility of acquiring the School Street Freight House. Seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted. 6-0 Yes, **motion carries.**

4. **Pre-Demolition Requests:**

203 Boston Road- Bob McNamara, not present. Ms. Taverna noted that she will take 203 Boston Road off the agenda until Mr. McNamara contacts the commission again.

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

Mr. Merrill reported that Mr. Leonard was no longer doing the signs, Tim Kearns has taken over for Mr. Leonard. Mr. Kearns has about a dozen of the blank signs. Mr. Merrill explained that the logo needs to be set up for transfer to signs. Mr. Merriam said that he has the electronic version and will forward it to Mr. Merrill for Mr. Kearns. Mr. Merrill will order the signs for 94-96 Middlesex Street and 20-22 Vinal Square- Bowling Alley. Discussion of 248 Main Street wanting a

sign, but Ms. Prescott noted that there was a question of the actual date, and the sign should be held off until the correct date can be determined.

6. **Historic District Updates:**

Ms. Taverna noted that much work is being done on the Fiske House. It will be returned to a single-family residence.

7. **Budget-** no new budget yet.

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

none

9. **Local Certified Government:**

Ms. Prescott noted that the process is underway, but no work has been done in the past month.

10. **Historic Preservation-What Can We Do?**

a. Restrictions vs Easement

Mr. Vigeant noted that easements are given, and restrictions are taken. Ms. Prescott noted that she had sent copies of the National Park Service information re: easements to the commission. Discussion regarding changing restriction to easement which has a much better feel. **MOTION:** Ms. Prescott moved to change the word restriction for easement in all future Historic Preservation documents. Seconded by Mr. Vigeant and so voted. 6-0 Yes, **motion carries.**

Ms. Prescott asked if the information from the National Park Service could be put on the website. Mr. Merriam will attach the link.

b. List of Chelmsford families and what they've done for the 250th anniversary of the USA.

Names suggested, Simeon Spaulding, Willard Parker, Moses Parker, Baldwin, Nettie Stevens, George C. Moore, Elizabeth Clark, Sword Factory, Swain Turbine. It was noted by Ms. Prescott that Mass. Historic/ Fed. Gov were looking for biographies of people and families that influenced the growth of the country. Ms. Prescott will begin work on the biographies of S. Spaulding and W. Parker.

c. 2 Farley Brook Road Barn- Ms. Taverna noted that the owners were looking for help with the restoration of the barn. Ms. Prescott noted that there was help through the Mass. Historic Commission and that they should contact them. Mr. Merriam asked if this information would be directed to the owners.

11. Approval of Minutes

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

12. Set Agenda for Sept 13, 2022

Freight House
Local Certified Gov.
250th Anniversary

MOTION: Mr. Merrill moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Merriam and so voted.

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy A. Metz, Clerk