



Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

September 14, 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, 7:30 PM

1. **Public Input:** May Devindy-brought a concern re: the small train station in West Chelmsford. Ms. Devindy is a neighbor at 26 School Street and is very concerned that the building is in such disrepair that an historic structure will be lost. The members explained that there has been some interest but that the building is owned by the railroad, and they do not seem to want anything done. Ms. Taverna noted that the CHC may send a letter regarding demolition by neglect. Mr. Merriam gave a little history of the building and ideas that have come forward. He noted that there were issues with turning it into public use, i.e., water, electricity and bathroom facilities would be very costly and not feasible. Ms. Prescott suggested a neighborhood letter to the railroad. Ms. Devindy also requested a sign for her house at 26 School Street, Ms. Taverna will forward the request to Mr. Stripp. Mr. Merrill asked about the sign at 37 Dunstable Road, it was an older sign and in disrepair. It was explained that the type of sign he was speaking was put out during the bi-centennially in 1976.
2. **Pre-Demolition Requests:**
 - a. 314 Dunstable Road- Ms. Taverna noted that the inventories were being done as fines and should be finished soon. Ms. Prescott noted that she had received an email from Stacy Spies (doing the inventories) stating that the inventories are waiting for Mass Historical numbers. Ms. Taverna noted that 314 Dunstable Road will remain on the agenda until the inventories are finished.
 - b. 203 Boston Road- House and lumber yard- Ms. Taverna noted that Mr. McNamara was considering restoring the house but has had no contact. She will keep it on the agenda.

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

Ms. Taverna noted that Mr. Stripp is working on signs for

84 High Street

7 Ripley Street

48 Washington Street

Ms. Connolly noted that she would like a sign for her home- 19 Billerica Road.

4. **Budget:** no change

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

- Ms. Taverna noted that as a result of the issues surrounding demolition of 314 Dunstable Road, she has been contacted several times-8 to be exact!
133 Concord Road 30 Russell Street 75 Gorham Street
318 Acton Road 313 Acton Road 53 Brick Kiln Road
381 Acton Road 246 Acton Road
- Ms Taverna noted that she had received an email from Mr. Harvey re: minutes from the July meeting. It was noted that the minutes were posted on the town website.
- Ms. Prescott has a request for demolition at 133 Acton Road- it was noted that it was not built over 75 years ago so not under any restrictions.
- Ms. Prescott noted that she had communication with Mass Historical regarding Local Certified Government
- Ms. Prescott received a call from Jack Handley asking for a picture of the Odd Fellows building with bunting. Mr. Merriam sent him a picture from 1905. The purpose was to have Janet Lambert Moore do a painting for the owners.

6. **Historic Preservation**

- Ms. Taverna noted that she would speak to Mr. Arvidson about the brochure he has been working on.
- Ms. Prescott spoke about "Meet Your Ancestors" at Forefather's Cemetery coming up October 29. She is still looking for a few more "ancestors" and "grave diggers"-guides for the evening. Her concern is the dark pathways. It was suggested by Ms. Taverna that pathways could be lit by luminaries. Ms. Prescott noted that luminaries for the graves and may be used as pathways.

7. Review Demolition by Neglect

- Ms. Taverna noted that there were 3 or 4 houses that are of concern. She asked members to think about what could be done, letters, emails etc. as reminders of the demolition by neglect by law.

8. Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Ms. Prescott moved to accept the minutes of August 10, 2021, as amended seconded by Mr. Merriam and so voted.

9. Set Agenda for October 12, 2021

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

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy A. Metz, Clerk