

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Approved Jan. 23, 2024

TOWN CLERK
2024 JAN 24 AM 11:37
DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: January 9, 2024

Present in person: Tag Carpenter, Chair and Andrew Burns

Present by remote: Chris Andrew, Michael Carlson, Arthur Evans, and Ed Mayo. Brendan Wall was absent.

Note: the numbering below is chronological and may not correspond to agenda item numbering.

This was an in-person meeting with a hybrid option. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and confirmed that remote members present could be heard by calling for a roll call. He then read the following preamble:

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting will be conducted in person and, as a courtesy, via remote means in accordance with applicable law. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if there are technological problems, unless required by law.

1. Open Forum. The quarterly agenda item "Demolition delays in effect" will be discussed at the next meeting. There is a prospective buyer for 1335 Tremont Street.
Mr. Mayo received an inquiry Matthew Vigneau, formerly of Duxbury and now Head of the Adams Historical site about a tour of the Sampson-White Joiner Shop. The Chair will follow-up.
2. Minutes. Minutes of the December 5 meeting were approved by a 6-0 vote.
3. Sampson-White Joiner Shop NRHP designation. The HC received a letter dated December 22, 2023, from Ms. Sherry Frear, Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Program of the U.S. Department of the Interior saying the Sampson-White Joiner Shop has been designated a National Historic Landmark. There are only 192 landmark sites in the Commonwealth, one in Duxbury: the John and Priscilla Alden House site. Although the Commission had little to do with the application for this designation, it was seen as a big deal in recognizing the importance historic properties have in Duxbury. The Chair is working with the team that prepared the application to determine how the Commission might support giving the site the recognition it deserves. The shop is said to be in poor repair, and plans for its restoration were not known. The Berrybrook School, where the shop is located is a busy place that may not welcome an influx of visitors.
4. 761 Temple Street. The new owners have notified the Chair of their intent to form an LLC for the property. The Commission must vote to approve this.
5. Historic Preservation Letter and Brochure. Mr. Mayo discussed these with Sabrina Kaplan of the DRHS and Pam Smith, Chair of the Local Historic District Commission to make sure they were on board with it. Both thought it a good idea and suggested only that the term "historic designation" be changed. Discussion followed about who should receive the mailing: owner occupied homes more than 75 years old. The letter will be a "call to action" for future historic preservation initiatives. Messrs. Burns and Carlson agreed to work with Mr. Mayo to put finishing touches on the project before the next meeting.
6. Historic Property Inventory. Work on preparing a list of historic homes in Duxbury by decade continues, as does preparation of a summary of various historic areas and homes in town identified in the three reports of the Duxbury Communitywide Surveys. Maps of the town on MACRIS were shared and discussed.

7. Administration of Resources listed on the NRHP. There is ongoing research into the role the Historical Commission has for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is being done on a case-by-case basis.
8. CPC and LHDC Update. Re: restoration of the town clock in the Pilgrim Church. The Chair contacted church officials and proposed the Church withdraw its application to the CPC for funds to restore the clock so the Historical Commission could sponsor and submit an article for these funds at the 2024 ATM. Church officials agreed. An online draft of the application to the CPC prepared by the Chair was reviewed; the Chair will follow-up.

Re: the Girl Scout House. An application is being prepared to submit to the Grant Program of the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund for funds to address some of the work identified in the detailed Home Inspection Report and proposed Scope of Work that was previously received. The application deadline is March 15; Mr. Mayo volunteered to work on and complete it. Coordinator of the project will be Kristina Knowles, Facilities Director for the Town. The major issue remaining is to get additional quotes for the work.

9. Next meeting date. January 23, 2024. Remote only.
10. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 8:15 pm. Passed 6-0.

New Materials Received

1. Letter dated December 22, 2023, re: H34 (7228) from Sherry A. Frear, Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program re: the Sampson-White Joiner Shop.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk