

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Approved Feb. 6, 2024

2024 FEB -8 PM 1:16

DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: January 23, 2024

Present: Tag Carpenter, Chair, Ed Mayo Vice Chair, Andrew Burns, Michael Carlson, and Arthur Evans. Chris Andrew and Brendan Wall were absent.

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

This was a remote only meeting. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and confirmed 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 via remote means in accordance with applicable law.

1. Open Forum. No new items. Commissioners were reminded of the Annual Town Meeting in March.
2. Minutes. Minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved by a 5-0 vote.
3. Demolition Delays in Effect.
 - a. 474 Franklin Street, expires February 15, 2024. No news from owner; Mr. Carpenter will attempt to contact him in person by visiting the house. Discussion followed about what might be done in cases like this when owners cannot be reached or do not communicate; what is the role, if any, of the HC in "leading the charge" to call attention to the potential demolition of an historic structure? In the past private action has led to Town involvement such as 761 Temple Street. 474 Franklin Street is a special case because of its location on the South River between Rt. 3 and a kennel. Need clarification of the owner's intention once the demo delay expires.
 - b. 1335 Tremont Street, expires April 12, 2025. As noted previously, the owner reports that an interested buyer is engaged who has expressed a desire to preserve the historic structure.
 - c. 12 Samoset Place, expires Sept. 13, 2024. The ZBA approved the variance request to increase the volume that will be within the front setback. The owner and Chair had an exchange affirming the owner's appreciation of historic wood. Commissioners discussed whether the plans for harvesting and repurposing the wood might be sufficient cause for reducing the length of the demolition delay. The Chair agreed to pursue the idea with the owner to salvage as much material as possible from the structure and incorporate it in the new house or make it available to others before the delay expires.
4. Historic Preservation Brochure and Letter.

Mr. Mayo reported the brochure is done and envelopes have been ordered. A second draft of the letter to accompany the brochure was circulated to commissioners for comment. Mr. Burns reported that the mailing list is also complete and needs only a final clean-up that will be ready at the next HC meeting. Between 500 and 600 copies of the brochure and letter will be mailed in late February or early March to owners of historic homes.

Mr. Carpenter called attention to a book he has been researching titled *Preserving Community Character*, a how-to guide for citizen involvement in community affairs. The brochure and letter are seen as one component of developing community awareness for historic preservation in Duxbury.

5. 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.
6. Sampson-White Joiner Shop NRHP designation. The Chair has been put in touch with Amanda Casper of the National Park Service office in Philadelphia as the primary contact with the owners, Berrybrook School. The Chair will follow up with Ms. Casper and Berrybrook about plans for announcing designation of the Sampson-White Joiner Shop as a National Historic Landmark as noted at the last meeting. The Park Service will coordinate this; details to follow. No action is to be taken by the HC at this time.
7. CPC and LHDC Update.
The LHDC has two articles on the Warrant for the ATM, one to make the Wright building a Local Historic District and add the Bluefish River firehouse to a district, and the other to make a change in the LHDC bylaw allowing an exception for the use "composite" materials on Town buildings without LHDC review.

The CPC has two articles that deal with historic preservation on the Warrant: the Girl Scout House and the Town Clock at Pilgrim Church.

Re: Girl Scout House. Kristina Knowles, Facilities Director for the Town is dealing with a backlog of requests for work, and repairing and restoring the Girl Scout House has not yet been addressed. Of the more than 45 issues that need to be addressed on this building, Mr. Carpenter, representing the HC, noted that 18 are considered necessary to make the building compliant for public use. Ms. Knowles is getting estimates for that work, and an outside contractor will have to be hired to complete it. Mr. Carpenter asked for support of commissioners to move forward with an application to the CPC funding for this project; all agreed.

Re: Town Clock in the Pilgrim Church on Washington Street. The CPC has received one estimate from a stepladder in Orleans to do the work for approximately \$18,000. An article for this is on the Warrant.

8. Next meeting date. Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Remote only.
9. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 8:08 pm. Passed 5-0.

New Materials Received: none

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk