



Town of Duxbury Historical Commission



Minutes: February 21, 2018

APPROVED MARCH 7, 2018

Present: Robert C. (Terry) Vose III, Chair, David Amory, Mark Barry, Molly Curtin, and Nicole Walters. R. Tag Carpenter, Vice-Chair and Arthur Evans were absent.

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

Chairman Vose called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

1. **Open Forum.** No discussion
2. **Minutes.** Minutes for the February 7th meeting of the Commission were reviewed and approved with corrections previously sent to Mr. Evans (4-0-1)
3. **New Demolition Applications.** None received
4. **Warrant Articles Nos. 46 and 47**

Chairman Vose reported on the Planning Board and Finance Committee meetings and said that Article 47 (lengthens the demolition delay from 6 months to 12 months) was approved. The Chairman said that the Town Manager and Town Counsel had asked for further explanation of the rationale that supports Article 46 (restricts a DHC decision regarding demolition to the current owner of a property and establishes a two-year expiration date for a demolition decision), and said it was due at Town Hall by Thursday morning, February 22nd.

Members discussed language that captured the sense of the Commission's thinking regarding the rationale. In essence, the Commission believes that restricting transferability provides another tool to engage with a new property owner and convey the importance of preservation to the Town's historical character. Preserving the historical character of Duxbury was observed as one of the values highlighted by the 2017 Envision Duxbury survey. During the discussion, members noted that demolition is different from a building permit in that it is asking permission to remove something that is irreplaceable. Members also noted that eleven other communities in Massachusetts have similar restrictions on transferability to what the DHC is proposing, that all were approved by the Attorney General's office, and none have been challenged in court, to the best of our knowledge after due inquiry. Ms. Curtin acted as scribe and produced the document that was reviewed, motioned and approved for submission (5-0-0).

The members discussed the draft presentation that Ms. Walters circulated earlier in February and talked about the edits to make it a shorter and more compelling document. A small working group will be convened to work on the document prior to the next meeting of the Commission.

Members also discussed a planned advertisement, social media postings and other outreach in support of the two articles. Finding compelling pictures to tell the story is important.

5. **CPC Update.** Postponed
6. **Local Historic District Commission Update.** Postponed
7. **Adjournment.** Moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Unanimously adopted.

New Materials Received: None.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Mark Barry, Acting Clerk