

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes: May 20, 2020

Approved June 3, 2020

Present: R. Tag Carpenter, Chair, Chris Andrew, Michael Cole, Arthur Evans, Sheila Lynch-Benttinen, Ed Mayo, and Nicole Walters.

Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and confirmed that members present could be heard by mentioning their name and receiving an affirmative response. He then read the following "Introduction to Remote Meeting."

"This Open Meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Order, which you can find posted on our agenda, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. For public access please email at <https://www.pactv.org/pactv/towns/duxbury/duxbury> or call in at (781) 934 1100 xt.5409 for questions or comments.

This meeting is convening via ZOOM video conference produced and recorded by PACTV, and can be viewed live on the Duxbury Government Channels – Verizon 39 or Comcast 15; or for those without cable, on PACTV's Prime streaming channel at PACTV.org/LIVE. This meeting will then be available via video on-demand on PACTV's website."

1. Open Forum. An abutter of 106 Powder Point Ave., (Thomas Soule II house, ca. 1840, DUX 653) questioned renovation work being done on the roof of that house. No building permit was issued on the project, nor had a demolition application been submitted to the Historical Commission. The Chair will follow up.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved with three revisions made to the draft version.

3. Public Hearing: 226 Powder Point Avenue

The Chair reopened the public hearing, continued from the May 3 meeting. David Uitti of Mirrione, Shaughnessey, Uitti, LLC, retained by the owner to assist with the demolition application participated in the meeting; Paul Brogna of Seacoast Engineering also dialed in. Mr. Uitti's letter dated May 18 sent electronically to the Historical Commission was entered into the record. After noting abutters may not have had adequate notice of the continuation of the hearing, the Chair asked Mr. Uitti to elaborate on his letter.

The letter primarily addressed the question of ownership of the structure by Dr. Hermon Carey Bumpus Sr., his association with the Town, and whether or not the structure was used as an office by Dr. Bumpus. The highlights of Dr. Bumpus's biography are outlined in some detail, with special notice given to two summer houses he maintained on Cow Tent Hill and his purchase of the King Caesar House late in his life. Dr. Bumpus was a summer resident of Duxbury for many years, but not a full time resident. The letter concludes that "the criteria in the Bylaw that could justify a delay in demolition of the Garage have not been met," and requests that a permit for demolition be granted.

Commissioners were mixed in their opinions. Some felt that while "charming," the carriage house/garage failed to meet the criteria of the Bylaw, while others demurred and were concerned that time allowed to hear from abutters and the public was not adequate. It was not clear if people trying to call in to the meeting were able to make a connection. To resolve this issue a motion to continue the hearing at the June 3 meeting was made and seconded; vote in favor 7-0. Mr. Uitti asked that steps be taken so the connection failure does not happen again; the Chair agreed.

4. Demolition Delays in Effect. Because of the length of the meeting, the Chair proposed to defer this discussion to the next meeting.

5. New Demolition Delay Applications. Discussion of the following deferred to the next meeting for the reason stated in #4.

- a. *313 Washington Street, The Joshua Cushing House, 1792, DUX 45, Total demolition.*
- b. *39 Sunset Road, ca. 1883, Total demolition*

7. Date of next meeting. June 3. The meeting will again be held remotely hosted by PACTV via ZOOM. Start time is 3:00 PM.

8. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 4:32 PM. Passed 7-0.

New Materials Received:

1. Historic Structure Demolition Application dated May 13, 2020 for 39 Sunset Avenue.
2. Letter dated May 18, 2020 from Mirrione, Shaughnessy, Uitti, LLC, re: 226 Powder Point Ave.
3. Undated letter to the Conservation Commission from David A. Mittell Jr. re: 226 Powder Point Ave.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk

