

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes: July 1, 2020

Approved July 15, 2020

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

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

Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM and confirmed that members present could be heard by mentioning their name and receiving an affirmative response. He then read "Introduction to Remote Meeting" as follows:

"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. Items to be included on the agenda for the July 15 meeting were briefly discussed. Agenda to be finalized at the end of the meeting.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the June 17 meeting were approved as written by a 4-0 vote. (one commissioner was late and joined the meeting after the vote).

3. Public Hearing: *313 Washington Street. Total Demolition of 3 buildings.*
The Chair opened the hearing. Due to circumstances beyond the Commission's control, the required public notices of the hearing were not published in the *Clipper* prior to the meeting. Moved and seconded the hearing be continued at the July 15 meeting to allow for adequate notice to abutters and the public. Passed 5-0.

4. Public Hearing: *39 Sunset Rd., Total demolition.*
The Chair opened the hearing. For reasons stated in item #3, it was moved and seconded the hearing be continued at the July 15 meeting to allow adequate notice to abutters and the public. Passed 5-0.

5. New Demolition Application: *Barn at 260 Washington Street, Amos Brown Barn, ca. 1853, (DUX 368), complete demolition.*

Walkaround June 30. Owner and architect dialed in to the meeting. Plan is to demolish barn and replace it with a three-car garage, with work starting in September and completed by the end of the year. Owner willing to have barn dismantled and rebuilt in whole or in part elsewhere and knows of a party interested in this. History of the site and main house that was totally destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1904 were discussed at length. Bricks used in original main house and in foundation of barn may have been ballast in ships from Antwerp. It was suggested the owner work with the LHDC and architects connected with them to restore the barn, but owner demurred, saying he preferred to work with architect and contractor he has already engaged. The Commission's priority to preserve historic structures rather than salvage pieces of them after demolition was discussed. Commissioners asked the owner if he might consider a plan to incorporate the existing barn into a new structure that would also be a three-car garage, and/or a plan to preserve the existing front façade of the barn. Both are possible. In the end, it was moved and seconded the barn met at least one criteria of the demolition delay bylaw, i.e., it is "historically or architecturally significant in terms of period style, method of building construction or association with a significant architect or builder either by itself or as part of a group of buildings," and a public hearing should be held regarding the application to demolish it. Passed 5-0. The public hearing is scheduled for July 29.

6. Article Series: Duxbury Backstories.

Commissioner Lynch-Bentinnen reported the Editor of the *Clipper* expressed little to no interest in publishing a series of occasional articles about historic preservation as discussed at the June 17 meeting. Instead he encouraged a letter to the editor signed by members of the Commission. Ms. Lynch-Bentinnen prepared the draft of a letter and shared it with commissioners for review; this led to comments and the creation of two alternate drafts. All three drafts and comments are to be considered by the Chair before the letter is sent. Other PR suggestions were that the DHC issue an award to a builder and/or owner who successfully restored an historic structure; another was for an historic preservation award that would focus on the history of a restored structure.

7. Talent Bank/Filling Open Seat.

Agreed to interview at least two of the five persons who have expressed an interest in serving on the Historical Commission via the talent bank at the July 29 meeting in Executive Session.

8. Next Meeting. Public Hearing re: barn at 260 Washington Street and interviews in a special meeting July 29; regular meeting schedule resumes August 5.

9. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 4:24 PM. Passed 5-0.

New Materials Received:

1. Historic Structure Demolition Application dated June 4, 2020 for barn at 260 Washington Street.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk

