

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN CLERK

~~2022 AUG 9 AM 9:53~~
Approved August 3, 2022

Minutes: July 20, 2022

DUXBURY, MASS.

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

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

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and confirmed that members present could be heard by calling for a roll call. He then read the following preamble:

"Pursuant to Governor Baker's Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 dated June 16, 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency regarding suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, the Town of Duxbury's Board and/or Committee meetings will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible with members. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so by following the ZOOM meeting links."

The meeting was convened via Zoom video conference and recorded.

1. **Open Forum.** An article about the sale of 761 Temple St. appeared in today's *Duxbury Clipper*.
2. **Minutes.** The July 6, 2022, minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.
3. **New Demolition Delay Applications:** None. New applications were recently received for total demolitions at 163 Abrams Hill and 15 Lewis Court; walkarounds are scheduled for July 26.
4. **761 Temple Street - Isaac Simmons Farm.** The Request for Proposals is now on two websites: isaacsimmonsfarm.com and circaoldhouses.com. Two inquiries of interest have been received to date. General questions about the property are to be directed to the Harrington Working Group; RFP bids and submissions will be handled by Michelle Seda-Stotts, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager and Selectboard. Two dates have changed; the site visit will now be held August 1 instead of July 26, and RFP's are due August 30 instead of August 17.
5. **685 Washington Street – McLaughlin Walkway and Pier.**
Commissioners held a lengthy discussion about what action, if any, the commission should take in response to a July 6 public notice in the *Duxbury Clipper* that a new application to construct a pier, ramp, and float has been filed with the federal Waterways Regulation Program of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by John McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin's three previous requests to the town over the past twelve years for this permit have all been denied because they violated Town bylaws. The Historical Commission's involvement is as a consulting party - the proposed project is within the bounds of the Old Shipbuilder's National Register Historic District. The Commission has previously stated its written opposition to the construction of the pier on three occasions: a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dated March 28, 2012, a second letter to the ACE on November 16, 2012, and a letter to the Duxbury Conservation Commission dated March 4, 2015. The Commission voted unanimously again to oppose the project at its meeting June 6, 2018.

After debate, it was moved and seconded the Historical Commission restate its prior findings in a letter addressed to Cally Harper, Environmental Analyst, DEP Waterways Regulation Program, 20 Riverside Dr.,

Lakeville, MA 02347 in response to the Notice of License Application dated July 6 2022 under the Waterways Regulation Program pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91, reasserting its opposition to the pier and supporting the findings expressed in its 2012 and 2018 communications regarding it.

In addition, the Commission agreed, but did not vote on the following statement and mitigating recommendations:

Should the project ultimately be permitted - which the Duxbury Historical Commission does not recommend or support - in order to reduce the negative aesthetic impact of this proposed construction on the Old Shipbuilder's National Register Historic District, the Duxbury Historical Commission makes the following observations and recommendations to mitigate this negative impact.

1. **RAILING MATERIAL:** Cable railing and vertical galvanized pipe is not consistent aesthetically with the traditional wooden 4x4 post with 2x4 rail construction of the other walkways/piers in the area. Note that this construction style is shown in the "Ramp Detail" design drawing on Sheet 8 in the supplied drawing set.
2. **DECKING MATERIAL:** The "light penetrating" aluminum decking is not historically consistent and would be visibly jarring to the district; to mitigate, the design should specify the installation of 2x8 wooden planks with 1" gaps for light penetration - as shown in the "Ramp Detail" design drawing.
3. **GEOMETRY:** The angled jog is not consistent with established walkways; all other walkways to the Bluefish River are straight; to mitigate, eliminate the angled jog, and have the gangway meet the walkway at a 90-degree angle so it projects directly onto the float on the tidal flat.
4. **PIERS:** To reduce the environmental impact on the historic marshland and mitigate any future degradation of the marsh, install "Diamond Piers" (concrete pads anchored by steel pins) rather than sinking pressure treated pilings into the marsh and the mud.

6. Historical Commission Preservation Programs.

- a. National Register of Historic Places Listings.* The draft document still needs further editing.
- a. Preservation Easement.* Mr. Burns and Mr. Carpenter plan to meet July 24 to discuss this.

7. Preservation Plan. Mr. Carpenter shared online the draft of a document he prepared and will circulate it to commissioners via email.

8. CPC Update. To be approved, the proposed increase of the tax surcharge from 1% to 3% must be presented to the annual town meeting in the spring of 2023, and then subjected to a vote at the town election.

9. LHDC Update. No news.

10. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 8:26 PM. Passed 6-0.

New Materials Received:

1. Email from Tag Carpenter dated July 15, 2022 re: Pier at 685 Washington Street
2. Demo Application dated July 19, 2022 for 15 Lewis Court
3. Demo Application dated July 15, 2022 for 163 Abrams Hill

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk