

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes: July 29, 2020

Approved Aug. 5, 2020

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

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

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 preamble:

“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 DuxHistoricalCom@gmail.com 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.** No discussion.
- 2. Minutes.** Minutes of the July 15 meeting and July 15 executive session were approved by a 7-0 vote.
- 3. Final Determinations.**
 - a. *39 Sunset Road.* Demolition Application withdrawn by owner.
 - b. *313 Washington Street, the Joshua Cushing House, 1792 (DUX 45), main house and two outbuildings.* A motion was made and seconded that all buildings included in this application met the three criteria of the demolition delay bylaw as being historically significant, and that a demolition delay should be imposed. Passed by a 7-0 vote. A twelve (12) month demolition delay beginning July 30, 2020 and expiring July 29, 2021 was assessed.
- 4. Public Hearing:** *260 Washington Street Barn, total demolition.*

The Chair opened the hearing. The owners and their architect, Jennifer Birnstiel, participated in the session with some abutters listening in. Owners stressed their appreciation of the history of

their property and its neighborhood, but also noted the structure of the barn has been modified over the years, needs a new foundation, and could not be incorporated into a new building. Other options such as dismantling the barn, moving it, or leaving it as is and building a separate new garage were discussed. Owners stressed the proposed new garage will have similar exterior features to the existing barn; it was noted in response that restructuring is not the same as historic preservation. It was also mentioned that a previous owner did significant work promulgating the development of UPC codes in the barn in the 1980's. The Chair thanked the participants for a lively debate and entertained a motion to close the public hearing. Passed 7-0. A vote on the historical significance of the barn will be taken at the next DHC meeting.

At this point in the meeting the Chair asked for a motion to enter into an executive session; passed 7-0. The regular meeting resumed at 4:20 PM.

5. Letter to the Editor (of *Duxbury Clipper*)

Consensus was that the letter identified as "version 1" was preferred. The Chair will review and circulate comments to commissioners via email.

6. Delay Review of 208 Myrtle St.

The Town Clerk received an inquiry about the safety of the existing structure, currently under a demolition delay that expires September 18, 2020. The Chair previously attempted to contact the builder about this but received no reply; he will try again. All agreed the request for early termination of a demo delay should not be initiated by the Historical Commission.

7. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 4:40 PM. The next meeting of the Commission will be held remotely on Wednesday, July 5 at 1 PM.

New Materials Received:

1. Email from Carol Wadsworth dated July 15 re: 39 Sunset Rd.
2. Demolition Application dated July 27 for 57 Shipyard Lane.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk

