

TOWN CLERK

## DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Approved November 9, 2023 11

DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: October 17, 2023

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

*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 7:01 PM and confirmed that members present could be heard by calling for a roll call. He then read the following preamble:

"Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote means in accordance with applicable law."

1. Open Forum. The Chair noted the need for the HC to collaborate with the DRHS on a preservation plan for the Town. Mr. Burns was in touch with Preservation Massachusetts in Plymouth for information about their current programs but has yet to hear from them.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the October 3 meeting were approved by a 7-0 vote.

3. Alternative to Demolition Meeting: 12 Samoset Rd., ca. 1920.

This meeting was held October 12 at the house site and attended by Messrs. Carpenter and Mayo, Building Inspector Jim Wasielewski, builder Jonathan Mark and the owner, Peter McNerney. Mr. McNerney allowed an interior inspection of the house, which appeared to be well kept and in good condition with a finished basement. The owner said the low ceilings were a problem for him; no mold was evident. The house has been in the McNerney family for generations and was extensively renovated by the owner's grandfather in 1967 to prepare it for the next generation of his family. The present owner wants to continue this tradition by making the house suitable for future generations McNerneys. He is adamant the best way to do this is to demolish the present structure and build a new one. The Building Inspector noted the house is a non-conforming structure that if renovated would need a special permit subject to consideration by the Design Review Board. It would also need a new foundation. Commissioners discussed options: identifying that part of the house that is historic; flaking the structure for relocation elsewhere; salvaging parts of the house for reuse in a new structure. The garage is also historic and could be moved on the property for possible use as a shed. In the end commissioners wanted time to consider the matter further and took no action.

4. 761 Temple Street Update.

It was mentioned at the last meeting that the Carriage house has been straightened by the new owners, which turned out not to be the case. The corners of the Carriage house have been made vertical, but the structure itself still leans. There was no further news about renovation or use of the house.

5. Administration of Resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The partial drafts of two preliminary attempts to list homes on MACRIS that have been recommended for the National Register of Historic Places prepared last year by the Clerk were discussed. Rather than compile a single comprehensive list, it was thought a better and more manageable option would be to focus on the various historic areas in town identified in the final reports of the Duxbury Communitywide Surveys prepared in 2001, 2002, and 2004 and list homes in each. This would also call attention to the historic nature of the town as a whole – a goal of the Historic Commission. The Clerk volunteered to prepare samples for the next meeting. Mr. Mayo has a complete listing of all properties in Town prepared by the Assessor's office that he will share.

6. CPC and LHDC Updates.

The CPC has received four applications to present to the ATM in March 2024, two of which are for historic projects. The first is \$25k to rehabilitate and restore the Girl Scout House on Washington Street; the second is

for \$15k to restore the clock on the Pilgrim Church, which was a gift to the Town. Concern was expressed that the Girl Scout House project seemed to be maintenance and not restoration. As an expression of support for these applications two motions were moved and seconded. First, that the HC support the application for \$25k made by Kristina Knowles, Facilities Director of the Girl Scout House at 878 Washington Street and second, that the HC support the application for \$15k for restoration of the clock at the Pilgrim Church at 414 Washington St. The first motion passed by a 7-0 vote; one commissioner abstained from the second vote that passed 6-0.

There was no news to report from the LHDC.

7. Motion to Adjourn.

Made and seconded at 8:48 PM. Passed 7-0.

*Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk*