

# DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN CLERK  
Approved Dec. 5, 2023  
2023 DEC 11 AM 8:45  
DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: November 7, 2023

Present in person: Tag Carpenter, Chair, Arthur Evans, and Brendan Wall.  
Present by remote: Chris Andrew, Andrew Burns, Michael Carlson, and Ed Mayo.

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

This was an in-person meeting with a hybrid option. Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and confirmed that remote 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 in person and, as a courtesy, via remote means in accordance with applicable law. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if there are technological problems, unless required by law.*

1. Open Forum. No items
2. Minutes. Minutes of the October 17 meeting were approved by a 7-0 vote.
3. New Demolition Delay Applications. (Note: The Chair Amended the agenda to include two applications received after the agenda was posted: 37 Bow Street and 291 Washington Street)
  - a. 26 Surplus Street, the Asa and Lydia Brewster House, (DUX.138), 1853, partial demolition/renovation. Jennifer Birnstiel of Archiplicity participated representing the owners. Proposal is to rebuild the rear and left side walls on the first floor of the structure to correct fire damage and better align the floor and walls. Footprint of the house will not change. Moved and seconded that because the proposed demolition at 26 Surplus Street is both necessary and preservationist in nature a demolition delay should not be imposed. Passed 7-0.
  - b. 37 Bow Street, the Philip Delano House, (DUX.10), 1716, partial demolition/renovation. Michael Lemieux of Full Circle Construction participated representing the owners. Proposal is to repair and insulate the cedar roof of the structure while preserving its historic character. Work will be done by installing a "roof over a roof" that will allow room for gutters and downspouts. Moved and seconded the work involved in this proposal is preservationist in nature and a demolition delay should not be imposed. Passed 7-0.
  - c. 291 Washington Street, Snow Magoun House, (DUX.46), 1805, partial demolition/renovation. Mr. Lemieux again represented the owners. Mr. Wall, owner, recused himself from the discussion. Proposal is to move the existing front door of the antique cape to the north side of the structure and replace it with a window that compliments the historic design of the house, restoring this section to its original design. Moved and seconded this work is preservationist in nature and a demolition delay should not be imposed. Passed 6-0.
3. Commission Budget. The new Budget Director for the Town suggested the annual budget for the Historical Commission be reduced from its present level of \$1,000 to \$100. The Commission has not incurred any expenses for the past five years. Commissioners demurred and were concerned that without funding projects currently under discussion might not happen. Also if the present budget level is eliminated it will be difficult to have it restored. There was a strong feeling the budget should remain at \$1,000, which is necessary to support the Commission's efforts to increase awareness in Town of historical preservation. In support of this Mr. Mayo volunteered to prepare a draft brochure

for distribution to homeowners along with an accompanying letter for consideration at the next meeting.

4. 761 Temple Street Update. No new developments reported.
5. Historic Property Inventory. Preparation of a list of historic homes in Duxbury by decade discussed at the October 17 meeting remains a work in progress, as does a summary of various historic areas in town identified in the reports of the Duxbury Communitywide Surveys prepared by the MHC in the early 2000's. Drafts of both were promised for consideration at the next meeting.
6. CPC Update. Two applications for funds from the historical preservation allocation of the CPC were again discussed: rehabilitation of the Girl Scout House at 878 Washington Street, and restoration of the clock at the Pilgrim Church at 414 Washington Street. The Chair stressed funding was for "needs," not "wants." The Girl Scout House is not on the town's list of capital improvements and the town seems not to be interested in maintaining it. Commissioners debated whether work to rehabilitate it – painting and refinishing floors - was maintenance or preservation. Maintenance won out, which is not the purpose of CPC funds. It was suggested the Girl Scouts attempt to get outside funding or find volunteers to do the work required to improve the building.

Commissioners felt differently about the Pilgrim Church clock and thought its restoration deserved CPC funding. The Chair will draft an article for the 2024 ATM in support of this; the draft will need review of the Town Counsel

No news was reported from the LHDC.

7. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 9:00 pm. Passed 7-0.

#### New Materials Received.

1. Demolition Delay Application dated October 31, 2023, for 26 Surplus Street.
2. Demolition Delay Application dated November 3, 2023, for 37 Bow Street.
3. Demolition Delay Application dated November 6, 2023, for 291 Washington Street.

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