

Minutes: December 4, 2019

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

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

Mr. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. Open Forum.** Mr. Carpenter asked that a discussion of the Commission's mission and purpose be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**2. Minutes.** Minutes of the Nov. 20 meeting were approved by a 6-0 vote.

**3. Election of Vice-Chair.**

Ms. Walters was nominated to succeed Mr. Carpenter as the Commissions Vice-Chair; agreed by a 5-0 vote. The appointment must be approved by the Selectmen.

Mr. Mayo agreed to serve as the DHC liaison with the Local Historic District Commission.

**4. New Commissioner Search.**

After a review of talent bank forms received from the Administrative Assistant to the BOS, it was agreed to invite Christopher Andrew and David Rodham Johnson to the next meeting for interviews. The clerk will contact them.

**5. Expired Demolition Delay Preservation Status Update**

a. *308 Summer Street. Delay expired Oct. 6, 2019.*

Development of this property has started, but the house at 308 Summer St. still stands. There has been no word from Mr. David DeGhetto of the Norwell Historical Commission about possible interest in relocating the house to Norwell..

**6. Demolition Delays in Effect**

a. *208 Myrtle Street, Joel Peterson House (DUX 455) ca. 1850, complete demolition.* Twelve-month demolition delay was imposed Sept. 18, 2019 and expires Sept. 17, 2020. The rear portions of the house have been demolished and the chimney removed, with open sections boarded up. Mr. DeGhetto of the Norwell Historical Commission has not responded about a possible relocation of the house to Norwell. Efforts by the owner to offer the structure as a free house continue.

b. *761 Temple Street, Issac Simmons House, ca. 1696, complete demolition.*

Twelve-month demolition delay invoked Oct 31; expires Oct. 30, 2020. A new purchase and sale agreement is reported to being prepared and will be presented to the BOS at their next meeting.

The Wildlands Trust continues to be actively involved in attempts to save the property; no other concrete information was available at this time.

## **7. New Demolition Delay Applications:**

*a. 184 Marshall Street, The Weston-Holt Summer House, ca. 1900, DUX 617, complete demolition.*

Discussion postponed until the next meeting. The Town Historian will be asked to comment on the property, and a title search will be considered. The house was listed for sale in April 2019 but is currently off the market. It is not clear why the present owner wants to demolish it.

*b. 1399 Tremont Street. Complete demolition of house and garage.*

The house and garage were struck by large trees felled during a recent storm that caused extensive damage to the structural integrity of both buildings. Owner is preparing an insurance claim to cover the loss and intends to completely demolish the buildings and plant gardens in their place. The area is significant in Duxbury's history, and commissioners asked for more information about the provenance of the structures, deed research, etc. The owner's agent, Gordon Clark III, of Northside Design Associates will be invited to the next HC meeting to discuss this further. Ms. Lynch-Benttinen will contact The Town Historian and DRHS Archivist for further information. The matter was postponed until the December 18 meeting.

## **8. Tinkertown National Register District Nomination**

Ms. Walters's and Mr. Mayo's review of this application continues, with a meeting between them and the DRHS Archivist planned. Mr. Carpenter contacted Wendy Frontiero, who prepared the application, and was granted an extension of the Dec. 2 deadline for commenting on it. He also reported that CPC funding has been approved and is in place for the nomination.

**9. CPC Update.** In addition to the Tinkertown NRHP nomination, funding for two other projects being prepared for NHRP designation has been approved: the Old Town Hall, and the High Street Historic District. Drafts of both projects are in the works.

Certificates for residents of the Cove Street District, which received NHRP designation in August, 2019, have yet to be distributed. One suggestion was to send these to property owners with a cover letter; another was to present them to property owners at a reception, possibly to be held at a resident's home. Consensus favored the latter option.

**10. Local Historic District Commission.** As noted above, Mr. Mayo will fill the seat reserved for the Historical Commission on the LHDC.

**11. Motion to Adjourn.** Made and seconded at 8:45 PM.

New Materials Received:

1. Complete Demolition Delay Application dated Nov. 22, 2019 for 184 Marshall Street
2. Complete Demolition Delay Application dated Nov. 22, 2019 for house and garage at 1399 Tremont Street.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk*

