

# DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Approved Jan. 9, 2024

Minutes: December 5, 2023

Present in person: Tag Carpenter, Chair, Andrew Burns and Arthur Evans.

Present by remote: Michael Carlson and Brendan Wall. Chris Andrew and Ed Mayo were absent.

*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 7:05 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 November 7 meeting were approved by a 5-0 vote.
3. Commission Budget. As requested by the Budget Director, the Chair submitted a same level budget for FY 24 to cover anticipated expenses for the brochure discussed at the Nov. 7 meeting. There has been no reply to date.
4. Historic Property Inventory. Preparation of a list of historic homes in Duxbury by decade discussed at the October 17 meeting continues as a work in progress, as does preparation of a summary of various historic areas and homes in town identified in the three reports of the Duxbury Communitywide Surveys. To get these and other projects moving it was suggested that working committees instead of subcommittees of not more than three commissioners at a time be formed in 2024 to address the issues at hand. All agreed.

The Chair will meet soon with Pam Smith, Chair of the LHDC, to discuss preparation of a preservation plan for the town. Not much can be done with this until a new planning director is hired.

The draft of the brochure suggested at the Nov. 7 meeting and later circulated by Mr. Mayo was also discussed. All agreed the brochure was well done and a good step forward. Should it be mailed to owners of historic homes only? Is a follow-up mailer highlighting a success story such as the Simmons Farm in order? Or one that describes homes and districts now listed on the NRHP? The tentative date for mailing the brochure was set for late February or early March 2024

5. Historic Preservation Brochure and Letter. See above.
6. Administration of Resources listed on the NRHP. There was a general discussion about how to promote historic preservation, recognizing not everyone favors it and some view it as an impediment to other efforts, such as addressing the need for affordable housing. This is an ongoing concern nationally as well as locally.
7. CPC and LHDC Update. Two CPC applications were discussed: restoration of the Town clock in the Pilgrim Church, and restoration of the Girl Scout House. The Commission voted to request the Pilgrim Church withdraw its application to the CPC for funds to restore the Town clock, and that instead the

Historical Commission sponsor and submit an article for these funds at the 2024 ATM. The vote passed 5-0.

Re: the Girl Scout House. The CPC received a detailed Home Inspection Report and proposed Scope of Work to be done to bring the building up to ADA compliance and update its electrical wiring. Necessary historic preservation work involves repairing degraded architectural trim. Kristina Knowles, Facilities Director for the Town, will get additional quotes for this work and submit a revised proposal for CPC funds.

8. Next meeting date. Because of the holidays, it was decided not to meet again in December and schedule the next meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024.
9. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 8:02 pm. Passed 5-0.

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