

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TOWN CLERK  
Approved Jan. 4, 2023 5 PM 12:53  
DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes: December 7, 2022

Present: Tag Carpenter, Chair, Ed Mayo, Vice-Chair, Chris Andrew, Michael Carlson, and Arthur Evans. Andrew Burns and Brendan Wall were absent. Selectboard member Michael McGee was also present.

*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 Governor Baker’s Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 dated June 16, 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency regarding suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, as amended on July 15, 2022, the Town of Duxbury’s Board and/or Committee meetings will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible with members. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so by following the ZOOM meeting links.”

The meeting was convened via Zoom video conference and recorded.

1. Open Forum. Mr. Mayo called attention to a recent post by the MA Historical Commission on the MassHistPress Listserv that announced Round 29 of the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant program has been scheduled. The item was discussed briefly with no action taken right now. Commissioners were encouraged to sign up for the Listserv.
2. Minutes. The Nov. 16, 2022, minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.
3. New Demolition Delay Application.
  - a. *265 Washington Street, Henry Wadsworth II House, (DUX 182), 1853. Partial demolition/addition.* Owner/applicant Gardner Loring participated. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 as a contributing building in the Old Shipbuilders Historic District and the Washington Street Local Historic District. Owners seek to demolish the south ell of the home and replace it with a similar structure on the same footprint to improve interior access to that part of the house, relocate a staircase, and add a second front door on the west side of the house. The application included drawings of the original structure that show a door in this location. Mr. Loring said his family’s plans to renovate are not imminent, as they want to allow ample time for review of the application by the HC and the LHDC. After some discussion it was moved and seconded that “due to the recognized historic significance of the house at 265 Washington Street and the extent of demolition a public hearing is required.” Passed 5-0. With the holidays fast approaching and to allow time for advance notice to be given to the public and abutters, the hearing was scheduled for the January 18, 2023, meeting of the Historical Commission at 7:05 PM.
4. Preservation of the Isaac Simmons Farm at 761 Temple St.

The Harrington Working Group met earlier in the day to discuss bids received from realtors to assist with sale of the property. Jonathan Mark of Waterfront Realtors was selected. He will be paid a 2.5% fee with a \$30k maximum. The Town Manager will issue a contract between the Town and Waterfront Realtors with a goal of placing the home on the market by the end of January 2023.

The Affordable Housing Trust is also moving forward in seeking proposals from developers for construction of units on the land allocated to them in the purchase of the Temple Street property. No details were available, but the current thinking is that between ten and twelve units could be built following a Greenhouse Floor Plan.

5. Revisions to the Commission's page on Town website.

In an email to commissioners Mr. Mayo submitted two suggestions for providing information about MACRIS on the Historical Commission's website to make the public aware of it and encourage people to use it. One was titled, "Tips for Accessing MACRIS," and the other "MACRIS How-To Instructions." Historical Commissions in many towns provide this kind of help, and commissioners agreed the DHC should go ahead as Mr. Mayo suggested. The Chair will follow-up with Nancy O'Connor, Exec. Assistant to the Town Manager who maintains the website

6. Preservation Grant Calendar.

Information continues to come in from various sources about available grants; the challenge is to put it all in a single comprehensive package. The Chair is continuing to work on this.

7. CPA Preservation Grant Programs. Brief discussion about how these could involve either low interest loans or preservation grants to homeowners. Mr. Mayo had previously circulated information from other towns about how they have these programs set up and will redistribute this to commissioners.

8. LHDC Update. Several LHDC members joined the HC for the walkaround at 265 Washington Street (see item #3a. above). No one from the HC has been able to attend recent LHDC meetings.

9. Motion to Adjourn. Made and seconded at 7:55. Passed 5-0.

After adjournment a date for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided not to meet again in December, and to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

New Materials Received:

1. Complete Historic Structure Demolition Application for 265 Washington Street dated November 14, 2022.
2. Email from Ed Mayo to commissioners re: access to MACRIS dated December 7, 2022.

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