

Minutes: December 21, 2016

Present: Robert C. (Terry) Vose, Chair, R.Tag Carpenter, Vice-Chair, David Amory, Mark Barry, Arthur Evans, and Nicole Walters. Molly Curtin was absent. Walter and Susan Zaverucha, owners of 109 Abrams Hill Road, and David Mittell, Contributing Editor to the *Duxbury Clipper* were also present.

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

Chairman Vose called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

1. Open Forum

Mr. Vose reported that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing of the proposed revision to Bylaw 609 at its Jan. 11, 2017 meeting.

A new book on the history of Ashdod, one of many neighborhoods in Duxbury, titled, *Ashdod: The Other Side of Duxbury* by Sarah Sloan Evans was recently published.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Demolition Applications.

a. Barn at 106 Powder Point Avenue. Demolition application has yet to be received. Deferred until an application is available.

b. 109 Abrams Hill. *ca. 1930. Complete Demolition.* Unanimously agreed this is not a regulated building that meets the criteria of the bylaw; a demolition permit can be issued.

c. 57 Josslyn Avenue. *ca. 1925. Complete Demolition.* The public hearing scheduled for January 4 was cancelled at the request of the owner. This raised a procedural issue about whether such a hearing can be cancelled; after discussion it was agreed that it cannot and the Commission needs to proceed with it. By unanimous vote the hearing was rescheduled for January 18, 2017.

d. 31 Crescent Street. *ca. 1940. Complete Demolition.* The Commission has only a letter dated Nov. 1, 2016 from Brian Camara of Custom House Building and Development, LLC and building permit application stamped Dec. 2, 2016 stating the owner's intention to demolish this house. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Building Inspector to obtain a full demolition application. Action deferred to next meeting.

4. Revised Demolition Bylaw: Next Steps

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed revised bylaw between 7 and 8PM at its meeting on Jan. 11, 2017. Commissioners had two questions for the Planning

Director: what material will be presented at that meeting, and what material should the DHC provide? They also asked about the sequence of articles in the Town Warrant that is determined by the Selectmen. Chairman Vose is to call Nancy O'Connor in the Selectman's Office for clarification on these matters.

Mr. Barry discussed his contact with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) on information about how other communities handled the transferability clause in demolition bylaws. He will summarize his findings and present them at the next meeting.

5. 2017 Massachusetts Historical Commission Grants.

Mr. Carpenter circulated information about Round 23 of the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund administered by the MHC that makes matching grants to support historic preservation efforts available to local communities. A series of workshops about this will be held early 2017; one is scheduled at Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth on February 2. All Commissioners were encouraged to attend if possible.

6. Duxbury Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

This document was circulated at the Dec. 7 meeting and discussed briefly. The DHC has until Jan. 11, 2017 to respond to it; Commissioners are to bring their comments to the Jan. 4. meeting.

7. Outreach

There was a lengthy discussion of how the DHC might inform the public about the proposed revised bylaw in preparation for the Town meeting in March. Suggestions included holding public forums at the Senior Center, collaborating with the Local Historic District Committee, placing additional articles in the *Clipper*, obtaining email lists to use in the bylaw campaign leading up to Town Meeting, and cooperating with the DRHS. It was agreed that final presentations need to be streamlined, simple, and predictable. They should also be directed to everyone: home buyers, sellers, and citizens of the Town.

5. Adjournment. Unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

New Items Received.

1. Letter dated Dec. 12, 2016 forwarded as an email attachment from Stacy Walsh and Michael Skok re: 57 Josselyn Ave.
2. Email dated Dec. 14, 2016 from Anne Murray forwarding the Local Preservation Update E-Newsletter published by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, also dated Dec. 14.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk