

Local Historic District Commission Meeting

April 11, 2023

TOWN CLERK  
2023 NOV 20 AM 10:14  
DUXBURY, MASS.

Present: Pam Campbell Smith, Chair; Renee Mierzejewski, Jayne Talmage O'Farrell, Georgia Taft Pye, Janet Ritch, Phil Tuck, Terry Vose, Evelyn Walker

Select Board present: Fernando Guitart, Mike McGee

Members of the public present: Norm Kendall, David Corey (Zoom)

Chairperson Pam Campbell Smith opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. She expressed her gratitude to Fernando and Mike from the Select Board for coming to our meeting to hear our concerns and frustrations and to offer their suggestions on how to improve the historic districting process. Fernando apologized on behalf of the Select Board that they were not able to meet as previously promised, due to the overwhelming number of agenda items the Select Board had to deal with in the past few years.

Both Fernando and Mike acknowledged the hard work of the Finance Committee, which is strictly an advisory board. Although not necessarily so in other towns, in Duxbury the Finance Committee reviews every Warrant article for Town Meeting.

The Commission had worked very hard on the research and paperwork for the preliminary study reports for three Town-owned buildings for Town Meeting 2023. Approved by both the Massachusetts Historical Commission (no easy feat!) and by the Select Board, at the "last minute" they were vetoed by the Finance Committee, so they were not accepted for Town Meeting.

Fernando recommended that we make a plan for dealing with Town-owned buildings. First, we should meet with the Facilities Director. Then we should meet with the trustees of the Library, followed by meeting with Betsy Sullivan and perhaps others of the Finance Committee, as well as the Planning Director and the Town Manager. He thinks we would then be ready for TM 2025. He said possibly there is no need to place Town-owned buildings in local historic districts. Evelyn disagreed because of the possibility of demolition which can happen with shifts in values. The Town has previously torn down Town-owned historic buildings, such as the Wright Estate, torn down to build a new school, which was also torn down!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.