

Local Historic District Commission Meeting – May 23, 2023

TOWN CLERK

2023 NOV 17 AM 11:28

Attending: Pamela Campbell Smith, Terry Vose, Evelyn Walker, Jayne Talmadge O'Farrell, Janet Ritch, Georgia Taft Pye

Pamela Campbell Smith called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. She mentioned the questions attendees had had at the Local Historic District Coffee on May 6, 2023. Several people had asked questions about what would happen if there was a change to the Town ByLaw after they had placed their home in a local historic district. Pam asked Jayne Talmadge O'Farrell to update us on her research on Martha's Vineyard's Local Historic District Commission's method for "grandfathering" enforcement for properties in local historic districts as changes are made to town By-Laws. Jayne mentioned that she had visited the Edgartown Historical Society and now plans to download the By-Laws for the Vineyard and for Yarmouth to compare and contrast to our By-Laws for methods used to deal with any changes to By-Laws in regard to properties placed in local historic districts prior to those changes. Her review and report will be ready by September.

Pam also asked for a discussion of the coffee given on May 6, 2023 for owners of historic homes in the Powder Point neighborhood to encourage them to consider placing their home in a local historic district. She mentioned that six people attended and that Jon Daley, whose home was recently accepted at Town Meeting 2023 for the Powder Point Local Historic District, did an excellent job as "ambassador" explaining what is involved in placing a residence in a local historic district and why he believes it is important to do so.

Pam asked for an update from Commission members on properties for local historic district applications for Town Meeting 2024. Terry Vose and Janet Ritch mentioned properties whose owners are willing to do an application for Local Historic District status. Pam went over the timeline for doing those applications and said that she will ask at the June meeting for volunteers to do the research and prepare the applications over the summer months to be ready for submission in September.

Pam mentioned that we will need to find a speaker for the 4th Annual Local Historic District Day in September and we need to do a "Save the Date" series of announcements. She suggested that the Commission work on assembling an email mailing list to do a paperless announcement to interested people. We could also do announcements in the local press. She also mentioned that we should invite all the current owners of properties in Local Historic Districts and do a special reception for them with the speaker in advance of the main program.

She also brought up that we need to schedule meeting time with Planning Director Chris Ryan and Emily Hadley and with MHC head Jennifer Doherty.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2023 at the Senior Center at 7 p.m.