

Approved 1/24/2022

## Duxbury Local Historic District



TOWN CLERK

2022 JAN 31 PM 5:23

DUXBURY, MASS.

### Commission

#### **Meeting of the Local Historic District Commission – September 1, 2021**

Attending: Renee Mierzejewski, Chair, Janet Ritch, Evelyn Walker, Pamela Campbell Smith, Phil Tuck, Georgia Taft Pye

Members of the Public: Norman Kendall, Lester, Lloyd, Jon Lehman

Renée Mierzejewski read the State of Emergency Open Meeting protocols and called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

For the Open Forum, Lester Lloyd and Jon Lehman from First Parish Church discussed the need to do a repair to the front steps of the Church and add a handicap access ramp. They had provided illustrations of the proposed steps and ramp to the Commission prior to the meeting. They discussed the need for safety as the existing steps have sunk and need repair to level and widen them and the ramp is needed for access for disabled individuals to enter the Church from the front of the building. Since the Church is in a Local Historic District and the steps are part of the building seen from a public street, they wanted to discuss the repair and proposed changes that need to be made with the Local Historic District Commission. They are proposing to do concrete steps with granite facing but would make the steps wider than the narrow width the present historic steps have. They would also add wrought iron railings for all three front doors. The ramp would be added on the side and would be landscaped to lessen the visual impact of the ramp. They will aim, however, to make the steps appear as much in keeping with the originals as possible. As they pointed out, this possible change falls under Exclusion #7 of the LHDC regulations which allows for changes made to historic buildings to allow for handicap accessibility. The reaction to the proposed changes was favorable but Commissioners asked that Les and Jon return with the final plans for further review before the Church starts on the project; both agreed to that. Renée stated that after that review, if the design was fully approved by the LHDC, a certificate of appropriateness would be issued for the Church.

Renée then asked for updates on properties to be proposed for new LHD's this coming year. Evelyn Walker said she and her husband, Norman Kendall, plan to put their home at 324 Keene Street in for a LHD application. She said it would be a first step in establishing a neighborhood Local Historic District as there are a number of historic buildings and homes in the area. She suggested the new District be call The Keene's Brook Local Historic District. All members agreed this was a great choice for title. Evelyn also proposed editing the application template as

the wording is confusing and contradictory for timing. Renée agreed and said that Evelyn should edit it and we could then replace the older, confusing version with the new template. Evelyn will also check with the owners of the First Period home on Hound's Ditch and bring them the paperwork for doing an application. Renée said that Courtney and Greg Jordan, the owners of the property, had invited Commission members to come see their home. Renée suggested we could do that and bring the paperwork for the application with us. Georgia Taft Pye suggested doing a press release on the Jordans as their house, which was built in 1641, is one of the oldest in Town and this is a very newsworthy addition to the Local Historic Districts properties.

Phil Tuck said he has not heard back from the Town on either the Bluefish Firehouse or the Old Town Hall. He said he is also talking with the American Legion about putting their hall in a Local Historic District. He said he has not approached Saint John's Church yet. Janet Ritch suggested that maybe she and Georgia could do that as they are presently working to get Pilgrim Church to join the Winsor Local Historic District.

Renée then gave an update on the status of 761 Temple Street. The Town bought the property with housing trust funds and thus will do a 40B project on part of the property. The Town plans to sell the historic home after it has been accepted as a LHD at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. Renée has tried to have the Town consider putting the entire property in a LHD but that is not what is planned. Part of the property will be for conservation, and part for the 40B project. The timing for the LHD application for the house is very tight as the Town wants it completed by September 3. Renée doesn't think this is possible as there is no map and the written history of the house has not been completed. She has information that Sheila Lynch Beittenen has done but it needs to be reviewed, edited and completed over the weekend. Evelyn Walker will take a look at it this weekend. Tag Carpenter has also said he will help with this effort, but does understand what Renée is saying about the timing being very difficult because of the 60-day requirement for the public hearing and the review by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Some of the information on the house may not be accurate. An architectural historian has been consulting on the age of the property and feels it is more likely in the range of 1750- 1800. Her report has not been fully reviewed yet or made part of the report for the application. Renée mentioned that she had not been initially included on the Special Task Force

Phil Tuck said he has been talking with Kathy Cross who has put together a list of about 30 properties in West Duxbury to consider for LHD's. She has sent the list to Renée and Renée said she will review it and get back to the Commission as well as to Kathy Cross. Georgia suggested it would be a wonderful idea to see if Kathy would work with the Commission on the LHD applications as we could really use a hand and the grant for a consultant never came about.

Renée asked for an update on the Second Annual Local Historic District Day. Pam said that she has not heard from Chris Sherman and was not sure of what Island Creek Oysters would be doing and if our event is still located on their campus and part of the official opening ceremony for the building they have restored and which is now a new LHD property. Renée said that she hasn't heard from Chris either and that we should consider other venues, if ICO isn't available. Renée suggested putting the event off until next spring, but Pam said she thought since we are trying to establish a traditional event, we should continue with the date of 9/18 as planned. She

said she would reach out to Chris Sherman and would get an article or an announcement to the Clipper to publicize the event. She said that David Andreozzi, an expert in classical New England architecture, would be the speaker.

Georgia said that the article on the new Local Historic District properties was published in the August issue of Life on the Bay, but that she was disappointed that there weren't more pix of the people. She also said that she has the rough cut of the LHD video and that Jason Carter, the videographer, will come to Duxbury once more to get a few more shots to tie the entire video together. She has forwarded on the rough cut to Renee and will forward on to the rest of the Commission.

Georgia moved that the meeting be adjourned, which Phil Tuck seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.