

# Duxbury Local Historic District Commission



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Meeting called to order @ 7:07pm

Attendees: Phil Tuck | Janet Ritch | Georgia Taft-Pye | Terry Vose | Pam Campbell-Smith | Mike McGee | Renee Mierzejewski

### **Meeting Notes:**

Meeting Notes were not presented, therefore not approved. Renee needs to type them up.

### **Where we stand for TM 2019**

The Commission chairperson informed the Commission that we do not have an Article on the Warrant for Town Meeting 2019. Everyone already knew this, and some wanted to know which deadlines were missed. The chairperson stated that the most important missed deadline was the overall submission, in that it was presented to Valerie on the last day possible to have the ability to hold a Public Hearing in the State mandated time frame prior to Town Meeting. The Public Hearing would have needed to happen the morning of Town Meeting and this was not acceptable, in part because we've already done this before. In addition, we did not have all of the homeowners' affidavits notarized at that time; we are still working on this.

### **Status of State Review**

Chris Skelly reviewed our submitted document and approved it with the exception of two properties: The Spring House at 281 Powder Point Ave. and the residence located at 247 King Caesar Rd.

### **Notarized Letters from Homeowners and Other News**

- Georgia and Terry, who have been getting notarized Affidavits from homeowners, which is a Town-mandated requirement for our submission, updated us on the status of the Hendren's home, which is one that was not accepted at this time by the state. It seems the Hendren's are reconsidering the idea of becoming members of a Local Historic District due to their son's difficulties with the Town regarding his Antique home on Washington Street, which seem to be attributed to miscommunication, misconceptions and general misinformation. Georgia and Terry gave them the Myth Busters sheet and offered to answer any other questions they might have, but they have currently decided to go with their son's recommendation to avoid joining an LHD at this time.

- Georgia mentioned a pertinent article in the Boston Globe on February 10<sup>th</sup> regarding historic homes and preservation. It was on the front page of the South Shore section of the Boston Globe.
- Terry shared that the former Standish Hotel South will be demolished at the end of March. It had a 6 mo. Demolition delay applied to it, which expires at the end of March.
- He encouraged the group to try to save this structure. He said the former Standish Hotel North has been moved and renovated. He and others gave an example of a Copper Beech tree on Standish Shore that was saved as a result of “social pressure”.
- Mike McGee whose home at 900 Tremont Street is included in this year’s submission to the state is curious about what is happening with recording fees, in that we have received new information about recording fees from the town. In this case, he (and the Commission) have followed all the rules and provided all required information, yet he feels that no progress has been made on his property and this process is very long / tedious / disconcerting to property owners.
- Renee will send the current By-Law to Terry so it can be printed for Saturday’s Town Meeting.

### **Town Meeting 2019**

We will be sharing a table with the Historic Commission at TM2019.

### **Date Board Society**

We are interested in possibly hosting some events with the Dateboard Society, but the Commission needs to address this more thoroughly at a later date, while we focus our attention on next month’s meeting with Town Officials.

### **March 19, 2019 Monthly Meeting**

The Commission reviewed and commented on a Power Point Presentation started by Bill McArdle, who was unable to attend tonight’s meeting due to a schedule conflict. Below are the comments:

#### **Slide 1:**

- The Commission is in agreement that this needs to be a “reach out” effort by the Commission to Town Officials. We need feedback from Town Officials on how we are doing. It is clear there is disagreement about this, but we aren’t clear on what that disagreement is, so it is difficult for us to address in a meaningful manner. In requesting this feedback, we need to stick to the facts and not get caught up in gossip and hearsay.
- Bill suggests an annual or biannual meeting to verify alignment and review objectives of the Commission with Town Officials going forward; the Commission is in agreement with this as well. It is imperative that we have the support of Town Officials prior to approaching town residents in our effort to establish Local Historic Districts.
- In addition, the Commission members brought up the fact that there is tremendous confusion in town regarding the differences in the many Historic “Groups” in Duxbury and someone (us?) needs to clarify the differences between:

- Local Historic Districts Commission
- Historic Commission
- Duxbury Rural & Historical Society
- Design Review Board

**Slide 5:**

LHDC Marketing / Promotion:

- One suggestion during last week's meeting (monthly meeting for February) was that on the Saturday of Town Meeting, we recognize the homes around town that are already included in Local Historic Districts. One way of doing that was to place a balloon at each home and have a list (perhaps with photos? The idea was presented during the meeting and not completely formulated at that time) at Town Meeting (at the Commission's table) and a brief explanation of the historical significance of each home (could be taken from the MACRIS files).
- Other suggestions included:
  - Create an action plan of how we recruit/encourage new properties for LHDs; so there is no mystery regarding how we are accomplishing the establishment of LHDs.
  - Send out some form of communication to the town so that people understand what we're doing (having a mission statement and expanding on that).
  - Inform people of the Historic significance of the town's resources
  - Help the people of Duxbury understand the value of Local Historic Districts
  - Perhaps host a party/acknowledgement ceremony of some sort for the people who have committed to membership in a Local Historic District.
  - Assemble a brochure to explain what we do, and differentiate us from all of the other Historic Groups in town

**Slide 6:**

- Members of the Commission questioned whether the DLHDC is part of the Town's Master Plan (Envision Duxbury)? The Chairperson said we definitely have a role in the Town's Master Plan and part of our role is to help the Town determine which buildings we want to save. This has not been clear with the Commission and remains clouded, in part by the various perceptions within the group of how we are "handled" by various Town Officials; consistency is needed and a clear explanation of the extent of the support we have by the Town Officials.
- If, indeed, we are a part of Envision Duxbury, what are our deliverables and what is the timeline of those deliverables? What is the resource commitment; the Commission would like to see all of this presented to us in some form of documentation.

**Slide 7:**

The Commission needs to know what we need to do to align with and confidently gain the support of all of Town Management, including the following:

- Town Manager
- Town Planner
- Finance Committee

- Selectmen

The Commission expressed interest in meeting one more time prior to the March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm