

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, December 3, 2019, 1910 Building

Members Present: Chairman Bob Janes; Dot Cavanaugh; Paul Knezek, Elisa Grammer.

Historic Inventory

Ms. Grammer shared the updates Jennifer Conway (who was unable to attend because of illness) provided. The consultants' most recent invoice has been paid and Ms. Conway has been in touch with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The next deliverable will be in the end of December.

Jean Nelson of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) advises that if the Historical Commission wants to use CPC funds to pay for mapping as the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) had done with regard to Phase 1, we must make a submission to the CPC no later than January 7, 2020. Ms. Conway had not had an opportunity to ask Town Manager Angus Jennings 1) if LTA funds could be used for this and 2) how much the first mapping effort cost. Ms. Conway will also determine from MHC whether we actually need such mapping.

Ms. Grammer reported that she had placed a call to MVPC to try to get the Phase 1 mapping corrected. Among other things, the MVPC map's depiction of the Manufacturers' Row district apparently includes a house across Main Street, which our consultants did not include. This is particularly concerning in view of our efforts to present a cogent, consistent description to affected property owners in a potential historic district.

Historic District

The Commission reviewed Ms. Conway's draft letter to the MHC's Director of the National Register Program. The Commission recommended changing the first sentence of the letter's third paragraph to read, "In preparation for this task, we have also mailed a letter to affected property owners about the proposed districts and the meaning of a National Register Historic District, letting them know that a more formal review would need to take place, and that an informational meeting would be scheduled so they can learn more." The Commission also recommended removing footnotes 8 and 9 on page 2.

Antique Chairs from Town Hall

Ms. Grammer reported that the Commission's sale of antique Town Hall chairs on November 2 and November 9 netted over \$4,000 to the Town and succeeded in emptying Town Hall of a fire hazard. The Department of Public Works has a few chairs left and will fix them up and place them in Town buildings.

Julian Steele

Now that the historic marker for Julian Steele was approved at Fall Town meeting, Ms. Grammer contacted the sign maker and obtained and shared a draft of the sign, which will cost \$175, well within budget. Ms. Grammer reported that she has heard nothing in reply from the Selectmen or Town Manager about how they would like to proceed with an unveiling event and thus the Commission will need to deal with this. We have great cookie makers lined up and can provide water, lemonade, etc. Ms. Grammer reported that current Town Moderator KC Swallow may be away in February, but she will try to enlist help from the Bicentennial Committee. *Because school holidays run from February 17 to 21st, 2020, the Commission determined that the 8th or 29th of February (Black History Month) would be target dates.*

Minutes

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 31, 2019, Mr. Knežek, not present, abstaining.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Next meeting

January 2, 2020

Meeting documents

Draft letter re: Historic Districts to MHC

Draft Steele marker & cost documents

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer