



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2019 AT 6:30 PM

SILVA ROOM, FLYNN BUILDING, 278 OLD SUDBURY ROAD, SUDBURY, MA

Members Present: Chris Hagger, Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Margi Katz, Taryn Trexler, Jan Costa

Members Absent: Fred Taylor, Fred Bautze

Others Present: Anu Shah, Kay Bell, Elaine Jones, Craig Blake, Dan Carty, Janie Dretler, George Pucci

Approval of Meeting Minutes: By a vote of 5-0-1 (abstain), the September 27th, 2019 meeting minutes were approved. The approval of the DRAFT September 17th meeting minutes were deferred to the next SHC meeting.

SHC Support to PBC Town Hall ADA Variance Request – There was lengthy discussion of concerns by all members of the SHC for the process leading up to the variance request as well as the quality and accuracy of the variance request. Specific concerns mentioned included lack of coordination/consultation with the SHC and SHDC and lack of discussion between these Commissioners and the Sudbury Commission on Disability (SCOD) to reach a common understanding and chart a course to provide support for the variance application. One of the BOS present at the meeting stated that it is better to get everyone on board through a defined process. The SHC requested that the PBC withdraw the application and agree to host a meeting with the PBC, SHC, SHDC and SCOD using an independent facilitator to review the original Blue Ribbon Committee Report, goals for the project including how to have an accessible Town Hall and priorities for the various Commissions and which ones are feasible for the redesign of the Town Hall. The PBC asked the SHC to consider agreeing to and submitting 1 set of comments on Town Hall Design elements in a timely manner. By a 6-0 vote, the SHC voted to request the PBC to formally withdraw the full application submitted to the MAAB (not asking it to be tabled) so all stakeholder groups can come together. The PBC Town Hall Chair agreed to do this and set up a meeting with all stakeholders and an independent facilitator.

Eversource – There was a discussion with Atty Pucci representing the Town of Sudbury on the status of the additional information needed which was requested by the SHC at the 9/17 meeting with Eversource. Atty. Pucci will reach out to the MHC regarding their opinion on the NDA and

will try to resolve the issues centered on the NDA. He will also determine when Eversource intends to provide the SHC with the information requested on 9/17. He will also provide the SHC with an overview of the Section 106 review process. The Eversource project will be placed on the SHC November and December meeting agendas.

Old Home Surveys – There was considerable discussion on which historical properties should be selected to be historically inventoried with the remaining CPC funding that the SHC currently has. These properties are located outside of the 5 Historic Districts and have not been previously inventoried so lack some of the protections that the other historic properties possess. Nine properties/areas were chosen based on their age, architectural details and historical significance. Taryn will proceed ahead to work with the Town to procure a specialist to perform these historical inventories.

CPC Application for Old Home Surveys – The Chair thanked Taryn for completing and submitting a well thought out and written application to the CPC for funding for historic inventories. The CPC has asked for additional information on the application and the SHC discussed how this information will be compiled and provided to the CPC.

Sudbury Master Plan – The SHC representatives (Jan and Taryn) to this process discussed the status. With support from other SHC members, they completed edits to a draft review of Sudbury's Historic and Cultural Resources. This topic will be discussed at a Town wide Master Planning Forum on Historic and Cultural Resources on Monday evening, October 28, 2019. Members of the SHC will attend and participate.

Loring Parsonage Potential Shed – Members of the SHC who also are on the Board of the Sudbury Historical Society (SHS) mentioned that the Society is considering options for storage as they move into the Loring Parsonage. One of the options is the construction or purchase of a free standing storage shed to be located north of the Loring Parsonage. While the SHDC has jurisdiction over any new structures in a historic district, the sense of the SHC is that they would have significant concerns over such a structure due to the historic nature of the Loring Parsonage. This concern will be shared with the Board of the SHS by the SHC who are on the Board.

Broad Acres Farm Town Forum – Based on a recent site visit to the Broad Acres Farm, the SHC discussed the upcoming Town Forum to potentially take place on either November 14th or 21st. It was agreed that the SHC would participate in this Forum to address the historical significance and setting of the buildings.

Henry Ford Underpass Reconstruction – Based on a recent submittal from MA DOT on the proposed reconstruction, the SHC was in agreement to have the Chair reach out to MA DOT and recommend Corten guard rail to be installed versus the shiny steel guard rail since it is in

proximity to a Historic District and would be on top of the Henry Ford Underpass near the Wayside Inn property.

SHC Representation on the Town Manager Screening/Interview Panel – By a 6-0 vote, the SHC voted to nominate Jan Costa as the SHC representative and Taryn Trexler as the alternate. The Chair will so inform the TM office.

Employee of the Year Nomination – In response to a request from the TM, the SHC by a vote of 6-0 nominated Shawna Risotti to be the employee of the year. The Chair will so inform the TM.

SHC Meeting Video – The SHC discussed whether to have all future SHC meetings be recorded by Sudbury TV. The SHC agreed to have this done starting with the November 19th meeting. The Chair will so inform the Director of Planning

Posting/Not Posting Site Inspections – The SHC discussed the pros and cons of this subject. It was agreed that the SHC would ask for access to Town Counsel to further discuss this subject.

200 Horse Pond Road – Demolition Delay Bylaw – The SHC agreed to conduct a non posted site inspection of this property on Monday, Oct. 21st at 9:30am.

Carding Mill Update – The Chair informed the SHC that he and Diana Cebra met recently met with the new conservation coordinator to discuss Carding Mill. The Chair also mentioned that he was organizing a site visit/tour of the Carding Mill that would include the SHC, the ConCom, the SHDC and the BOS. Possible dates for this site visit are November 8th or November 15th.

Hosmer House – Discussion on the Archivist position was tabled for the Oct. 17th SHC meeting. By a vote of 5-1, the SHC approved the removal of the shrub along the sidewalk in front of HH to the left of the front door. Diana Cebra will follow up on this with the Town. The Chair stated that he was waiting for information from the donor of the Hosmer paintings and then he would communicate with BOS to accept the paintings as a donation and the Town Finance Director would provide a letter to the donors accepting the gift but no value would be given. Diana Cebra will be sending out a draft job description for a PT Director position for the HH to be discussed at the Oct. 17th SHC meeting.

MA Historic Preservation Conference – The Chair and Diana Cebra attended this conference. Many of the other Historical Commissions in attendance mentioned that a 12 month Delay Bylaw was not enough of a pause to prevent the demolition of historically significant properties as developers were purchasing more than 1 property in a community and willing to wait out a potential delay of 12 months on the historically significant property.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting: CPC Application for Old Home Surveys, Henry Ford Underpass reconstruction plan, 200 Horse Pond Road Demolition Application, DRAFT SHC support letter to support the PBC Town Hall ADA variance request.