



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES JULY 7, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Taryn Trexler, Steve Greene, Jan Costa, Fred Bautze.

Absent: Marjorie Katz

Others Present: Adam Duchesneau, Director Planning and Community Development; Jaye Hefner, 79 Nobscot Road; Anuraj Shah

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Confirmation of Note Taker for Sudbury Historical Commission

Mr. Hagger motioned to continue the note taking services of Debra Takacs. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. It passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTED: To continue the note taking services of Debra Takacs.

Approval of May 21, 2020 and June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Warren motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 21, 2020, as amended. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTED: To approve the meeting minutes of May 21, 2020, as amended.

Ms. Warren motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 8, 2020. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTED: To approve the meeting minutes of June 8, 2020.

Eversource – Transmission Line Project

The Commission reviewed a draft letter to MA Historical Commission to be sent as a follow up to the HC letter dated June 2020 and approved the draft minus the last sentence.

The Commission also reviewed the draft letter to Eversource to be sent as a follow up to the HC letter dated June 2020. The draft was approved without change. Ms. Warren said that she would submit the letters to George Pucci for review.

Ms. Warren stated she reached out to the Ma Central Rail Trail expert in Weston, but is not sure if he will be able to take part in a site visit of the project corridor with the Commission. Ms. Warren recommended that the Commission conduct a partial site visit (approximately four miles and view Union Avenue, the Tool House, and Bridge 127. She stated that she would send the commissioners a listing of possible dates for the waking tour.

Ms. Trexler and Mr. Hagger suggested contacting the Ma Historical Commission by phone, in addition to the follow-up by mail. Ms. Warren recommended not, and suggested calling if a return communication is not received after two weeks.

On a different matter, Ms. Trexler informed the Commissioners that the Select Board is voting on Town counsel consultations.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the Commission designate Diana Warren as the representative for our Commission to interact with Attorney Pucci and Town Manager Hayes on matters related to Eversource, and to keep the commission involved in those discussions. Ms. Trexler seconded the motion. It passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTED: That the Commission designate Diana Warren as the representative for our Commission to interact with Attorney Pucci and Town Manager Hayes on matters related to Eversource, and to keep the commission involved in those discussions.

Mr. Hagger asked the Commission if the Attorney Pucci should attend a Commission meeting. Ms. Warren responded that it was not necessary to meet with Attorney Pucci at this time. Ms. Warren stated that the Commission should wait until the requested information and documentation is received from Eversource before speaking to Mr. Pucci. Mr. Hagger stated that the Commissioners could continue related discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Warren informed the Commission that the Conservation Commission is conducting Eversource hearings and will be performing a site visit to examine the corridor. Ms. Warren also informed the Commission she intended to attend the upcoming virtual Con Com hearing and asked the Commission whether or not to speak on behalf of the Commission as she will only provide factual information to the CC. Ms. Trexler commented that the Commission had not discussed the Ma Central Rail Trail bridges, and for that reason, recommended that Ms. Warren not ask such questions on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Costa agreed with Ms. Trexler, adding that Ms. Warren could present such questions as a resident. Ms. Warren agreed with this approach.

Ms. Warren strongly recommended that the Commissioners perform “due diligence” in consideration of this project’s impacts on resources. Ms. Warren commented about and

summarized the scope of the HC review of the project including the MA Central Railroad complex as well as the individual features that make up the complex. She mentioned the various components and talked about the projects impacts on the Section Tool House as an example. She shared that one area of questioning would focus on Eversource site field study identifying native resources and how those field investigations were designed and performed. Another area is to determine if there are project design alternative that will avoid harming the resources.

Ms. Warren stated that the town contracted for a preliminary assessment of native resources in 2018. She recommended that the Commissioners view on Sudbury TV - "Let Landscapes Speak" lecture in 2018 to Sudbury residents by Narragansett Deputy THPO, Doug Harris to understand Native archaeological resources in Sudbury She also suggested that members review the material submitted by Eversource and DCR to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Greene asked why the Army Corp of Engineers was contacted. Ms. Warren explained if a project is permitted by a federal agency then a Section 106 review is triggered. The project is subject to a Section 404 Clean Water Act review which trigger the Section 106 review. Ms. Trexler asked if the district would be a local historic district or a National Registered historic district. Ms. Warren responded it would be a NR historic district, not local. She also commented on the historical resources in Hudson vs. Sudbury's.

Anuraj Shah made a public comment about historic bridges and structures on the ROW. He opined if features were not viewable, was there value to creating a public access. Ms. Warren responded the Commission should be looking at the project as a whole with all the resources involved, and the railroad played an especially important historic role in the development of Sudbury. Mr. Hagger commented that if the area becomes a rail trail, then the public will have access. Mr. Shah mentioned that decisions must be made to determine how to make the bridge accessible. Ms. Costa affirmed if the bridges were demolished would be mute and should be protected. Ms. Warren pointed out the plan is to not to restore but to replace and demolish the bridges.

Draft Master Plan Volume II – Historical and Cultural Resources

Ms. Trexler thanked the Commissioners for providing edits and comments on the Master Plan Volume II. Commissioners reviewed their edits/additions section by section in the areas of the Goal Statement, Historic and Cultural Identity, Demolition Delay Bylaw, Organizations the Protect and Promote Historic and Cultural Identity, Importance of Continued Education, Challenges and the Policies and Actions section.

Commissioners will provide further edits to Taryn in time to submit the HC revised draft back to Planning.

Historic Building Survey Grant Update

Mr. Hagger stated that Sudbury was one of the communities award the grant. He spoke of the necessary administrative requirements associated with the grant award.

Mr. Hagger noted that the Town will be given a list of contractors. Ms. Trexler stated that Sudbury was one of 15 grantees.

Eversource – Structure Replacement Project

Ms. Warren stated that the PAL Archaeological Survey did not mention what the impacts on resources in Sudbury were. She reiterated that archeological survey was performed on six sites in Sudbury, and one in six had positive test pits, but there was no document regarding the nature of the finds. She stated that the Commission should find out what those finds are. Ms. Warren stated the document sent by PAL was unredacted, but that the Commission did not have to sign a waiver for the unredacted copy.

Ms. Warren suggested that she and Mr. Hagger speak to Attorney Pucci about the receipt of an unredacted archeological survey, and share with him that the Commission wants unredacted copy of the Archaeological survey of the Eversource Transmission Line project that might be allowed for viewing by she and Mr. Hagger only.

Date for Next Meeting

Commissioners agreed to meet on July 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Hagger stated that a letter had been sent to the owner of 79 Nobscot Road to invite Ms. Hefner to that next HC meeting, but he has not heard yet whether the owner would attend.

Discussion took place regarding placement of the Landham Road granite marker. The commissioners agreed to perform a site visit for continued discussion at the July 21st meeting. Members agreed to the site visit taking place on July 14th at 4 PM, and agreed to a back-up date of July 15th at the same time.

Mr. Hagger announced the scheduling of Conflict of Interest Seminars.

Ms. Warren mentioned that MA DOT is working on the Henry Ford underpass in Town.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that the Demolition Delay Report and letter to the Building Inspector and owner had been sent regarding 79 Nobscot Road.

Ms. Warren asked if the Historical Commission's rehabilitation/restoration recommendation had been sent to Quentin Nowland. She informed the Commissioners that she had recently seen a photo of the Stone Tavern El which shows wide flooring, beams and a c 1840 metal Fireplace surround indicating the El was indeed historic.

Adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously (7-0).

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM