



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Absent: Vice-Chair Diana Warren

Others Present:

Rick Concord, Railroad Historian – Wayland Historical Commission; Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry; Charlie Russo; Janie Dretler; and Len Simon.

Mr. Hagger opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Eversource – Transmission Line Project

Mr. Hagger stated that the Commission was not ready to send a related letter to the Army Corps of Engineers. He hoped that discussion of such letter would take place at the next meeting. He encouraged the Commissioners to think about suggestions about the rail trail artifacts. Ms. Trexler stated that she provided a Town of Concord letter about BFRT to Mr. Duchesneau. She stressed that the Concord letter emphasized ways to preserve and protect railroad historical features along the trail, which was crafted in conjunction with a cultural survey previously done by Concord's consultant, as had Sudbury. She suggested that a similar letter be sent to DCR and the Army Corp.

Ms. Cebra noted that specific measures to protect historic features, including recommended signage; should be included in the letter.

Ms. Costa recommended sending two letters; one to the Corp of Engineering and DCR, and recommended that Ms. Spies' feature/artifacts spreadsheet and inventory report (with modification) be used as an addendum to the letter. Ms. Costa and Mr. Greene agreed to work on identifying railroad artifacts to preserve and protect. Ms. Trexler offered her help as well.

Resident and Select Board Member Charles Russo, 30 Juniper Road, stated that the Commissioners appeared to have a good plan going forward and was encouraged that the Commissioners would help direct the preservation of historical features along the Trail. He stressed that the Commissioners act with speed and noted that preservation of such features/artifacts should not be lost and provided education for children of the Town. He suggested that the Station House might be developed into a artifacts museum for

those stopping when walking or cycling on the trail. Mr. Hagger mentioned several historical features housed in the Station House.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

Mr. Hagger mentioned that Ms. Costa has been working on the demolition Delay Bylaw documentation for publication and inclusion in the Town website.

Ms. Costa presented the “Sudbury Historical Commission – Understanding the Demolition Delay Bylaw Process” draft. Ms. Costa detailed the research she had done to compose the Bylaw, including review of other local towns and MA Historical Commission. She reviewed several sections of the document including:

- Q & A Section
- Information Chart titled “Procedural Steps and Timetable in the Demolition Delay Bylaw Process”

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the placement of the Demolition Delay Bylaw Q&A and Summary onto the Sudbury Historical Commission website after minor edits are made to the document. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz-aye, Bautze-aye

VOTED: To approve the placement of the Demolition Delay Bylaw Q&A and Summary document onto the Sudbury Historical Commission website after minor edits are made to the document.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (from Concord Town Line to Mass Central Rail Trail/Station Road) Design Discussion

Present: Environmental Planner Beth Suedmeyer; Arnold Robinson, Consultant from Fuss & O’Neill, the firm contracted with the Town to complete the final design planning and environmental planning for the BFRT project

Ms. Suedmeyer provided update of the design and noted that the next major project milestone included submission of the 75% design plan for April 2021. Ms. Suedmeyer noted Mr. Robinson had much experience with historical aspects associated with such permitting.

Ms. Suedmeyer provided detail regarding the Sudbury project area as well as the history of the rail along the project area. She noted that the project would include a half mile in the town of Concord, north of Sudbury.

Suedmeyer outlined the BFRT Project Scope, including:

- Construction of approximately 5.0 miles of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail from the MCRT crossing near Union Ave. in Sudbury, north to Powder Mill Road in Concord
- 14-foot wide path (10 foot paved, with two-foot grassed shoulders)

- Rehabilitation of Hop Brook Bridge
- Replacement of the Pantry Brook Bridge
- Gateways and Roadway Crossings
- Signing, Pavement markings, fencing, amenities and landscaping
- Construction of parking area at Broadacres Farm

Ms. Suedmeyer detailed the roadway crossings along the Trail, proposed design of Pantry Brook and Hop Brook (with this Brook in better shape). Ms. Suedmeyer injected there might be additional changes to the Hop Brook Bridge, but she would keep the Commission abreast of such changes. She reviewed the history and future scheduling for the BFRT project with construction to begin in summer, 2022.

Ms. Suedmeyer provided detail regarding cultural resources – Section 106 Review and early environmental coordination checklist. Ms. Suedmeyer confirmed that the cattle crossings would be retained and stated that she would look forward to the Commissions comments/recommendations regarding gateways, rest areas/bike racks, mile markers, interpretive signage and wayfinding signage. Ms. Suedmeyer stated that the BFRT Advisory Committee would be considering many of the topics presented at this meeting.

Ms. Suedmeyer opined about interpretive signage which could provide detail about the history of Sudbury rails, history of Haynes Farm nearby, Town Center History, history of agriculture in Sudbury. Ms. Suedmeyer endorsed having an additional meeting with the Commission.

Mr. Hagger stated that he did not recall any previous request for Commission input in 2017. Mr. Greene asked if there were any indications of a North Sudbury railroad station and if so, should be identified with appropriate signage/plaque. Mr. Suedmeyer responded that she had conversations with Lee Swanson about such station/s; and that the small “waiting room” in South Sudbury is not the site of the original station and the “utility shed” is now a private residence on Peakham Road, which was moved from a different location. She stated that this aspect could be researched further and suggested a subcommittee might be formed to do such research. Mr. Greene confirmed he possessed a picture of the North Sudbury station.

Ms. Cebra expressed her concern regarding the fact that the Commission received no related communication in 2017 and would now have to scramble quickly to finalize official artifacts information. Ms. Suedmeyer maintained she did not know why the 2017 communication was not presented to the Historical Commission.

Commissioners Trexler, Greene and Costa agreed to meet before the next Historical Commission meeting to study the artifacts.

Ms. Cebra expressed her dismay that a Historical Commission member was not appointed to the BFRT Advisory Task Force. She added that researching the site with snow on the ground would not be easy. Ms. Cebra recommended that all Commissioners be involved with additional artifact research and schedule a special Historical Commission meeting before meeting in joint session with the BFRT Advisory Task Force.

Resident and Select Board Chair Janie Dretler, 286 Goodman's Hill Road, noted there would be much to learn from members of the BFRT Task Force, many of whom have been members for that Task Force for many years. In consideration of funding, Ms. Dretler affirmed that moving forward at this time would be preferable. She indicated her appreciation of the Commission's work regarding the rail trail.

Resident Len Simon, 40 Meadowbrook Circle, confirmed artifacts on the BFRT in other neighboring towns have been preserved and noted that he was somewhat of a train buff himself and recognized the importance of such artifacts.

Local Railway historian Rick Conard commented that the North Sudbury Railroad Station was just south of North Road. Mr. Conard directed the Commission to the 1915 New Haven Railroad Valuation Maps which may be in the records at the University of

Ct in Storrs. He indicated that the Commission should gather as much information as possible on the railroad artifacts to determine which are most important to preserve.

Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Hagger stated that the final application for a HPP planning grant had been submitted to the MA Historical Commission after the initial pre-application had passed the first hurdle in the MHC approval process. .

Sudbury Historic Property Survey

Ms. Trexler provided detail regarding the Historic Property Survey overview and phasing. She provided consultant progress update. She confirmed that the survey should be completed sometime in September.

Discussion took place regarding area survey in the Town.

Ms. Trexler mentioned the possibility of surveying several historic street signs after the historic properties are surveyed (including buildings at Wayside Inn property).

Mr. Hagger mentioned that the Sudbury Town Hall and various other properties.

Hosmer House

Ms. Cebra stated that she has a meeting scheduled with a historic building cleaner company. She stated that she would forward estimates to Bill Barletta.

Ms. Cebra commented about the popularity of the Sudbury throws and hoped that the Commission would be able to sell more soon.

Ms. Cebra mentioned a request for the image of Florence Hosmer.

Mr. Hagger mentioned signage regarding the Hosmer paintings at the Hosmer House, which provided detail regarding the paintings. He suggested that the Commissioners approve such funding from the Hosmer House account.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the Commission allocate up to \$300.00 to purchase tags for the paintings at the Hosmer House. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Cebra-aye, Costa-aye, Bautze-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To allocate up to \$300.00 to purchase tags for the paintings at the Hosmer House.

Hearse House

Mr. Greene noted that the gravestone lying on the floor of the Hearse House is a Maynard stone and a car hit the stonewall on Concord Road and a boulder fell and broke the gravestone in two. The other two mysterious stones originated in Natick. Mr. Greene stated that he continues to research the two stones.

Historical Commission Brochure

Mr. Cebra noted that update of information in the brochure needed to be updated. Ms. Cebra and Ms. Katz volunteered to update the brochure.

Financial Report

It was noted that Adolph Bahlkow, former member of the Sudbury Historical Commission passed away. Ms. Costa commented that Mr. Bahlkow's family had graciously designated the E. B. Hosmer Fund as one of the charities for memorial donations.

Approval of December 15, 2020, January 5, 2021, and January 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the December 15, 2020 Historical Commission minutes. Ms. Trexler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Bautze-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To approve the December 15, 2020 Historical Commission minutes.

Mr. Hagger stated that the January 5th and January 19th minutes had not been reviewed for approval.

Date for Next Meeting(s)

Mr. Hagger noted that the next SHC meeting would take place on March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The following SHC meeting would take place on March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Bautze mentioned that he had further conversation with the Bowker Store owner, who affirmed that he was not interested in interacting with the Town or the Historical Commission regarding the property.

Ms. Trexler noted that the property had been surveyed in the 90s with a great narrative as well.

Adjourn

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 7-0; Greene-aye, Hagger-aye, Trexler-aye, Costa-aye, Cebra-aye, Bautze-aye, Katz-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:17 p.m.