



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Historical Commission
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

Elise Loukas, Chairperson
Thomas Melone, Member
Susan Steele, Member
Marilynne K., Member
Joseph Panto, Member
Matthew Walter, Member

Minutes: Thursday, April 8, 2021 Remote meeting 7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Elise Loukas, Chair, Marilynne Roach, Matthew Walter

Member(s) Absent: Susan Steele, Thomas Melone

Public Present: N/A

Staff Present: Larry Field, Senior Planner, Susan C. Jenness, Assistant **(Adopted 5.13.2021)**

Loukas opened the meeting with no public hearings on the agenda.

1. Minutes- The minutes for the March meeting were reviewed.

After a review of the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting, a motion was made.

Motion: Roach made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 11, 2021 meeting. Panto seconded the motion.

Poll: A unanimous poll was reached approving the minutes from the February 11, 2021 Historical Commission meeting.

2. Discussion- Position of Historical Commission Vice Chair

A discussion was held regarding whether a Vice Chair should be voted on at this time. Loukas informed the group that neither Thomas Melone, or Susan Steele were present on their Zoom meeting. She explained that when David Russo stepped down as Chair of the

Commission, he agreed to stay on as the Vice Chair so he could support Loukas as she grew into the role of Commission Chair. The group looked back at how the Commission had run in prior years. They realized it had run with one Chair, who was for many years Russo, and that Russo would mainly call on J.B. Jones, a former long- time member who has since stepped down, soliciting Jones' assistance when the Chair was unavailable.

After a discussion, the group decided for the time being they would try working with a Chair and then open the discussion in the future if a need arose.

3. Demolition Delay Discussion- Review and recommendations for updates

The group reviewed where the Demolition Delay Discussion had left off in the recent past, although there were two members absent for this meeting.

Loukas informed members she had been in conversation earlier that day with Gideon Schreiber, Senior Planner to discuss best ways to move forward towards making an impact on the subject.

She reported that Schreiber and Loukas discussed the possibility of reviewing the past comments made about changes to the ordinance and synthesizing the information together. She informed members of the Commission she would be working with Larry Field, Senior Planner, assembling all the previous comments within the next two weeks, that would be shared by email in the next two weeks with all the members of the HC.

4. Historic Plaque Program- Will this program continue and who will volunteer to conduct research for the plaques.

Loukas briefed members on the history of the plaque program. She reminded those present that David Russo, former Chair, Vice Chair and long- time member of the Commission had been the sole researcher for the program for years. She briefed the group that Rachel Sacks, spouse of former member J.B. Jones had at one point taken on the task of re-designing the plaques in 2005, which was done to increase interest in the community with a practical and attractive new design.

Loukas said it was an option to turn the program over to the Historical Society if the group was no longer interested in keeping up with it as part of their duties.

Loukas said it was an option that Russo was willing to train any Commission members or staff that are interested in learning his research techniques, if they are willing to take on some of the duties that will no longer be done by Russo, since he stepped down off the

Commission. Loukas described her experience of doing research on a plaque she ordered as a gift and said she found it very interesting.

Panto said he was interested in keeping the program active and he would be willing to pitch in with incoming plaque research. Walter said he was also interested in learning how to research plaques and helping to fill Russo's shoes.

5. **Updates-** Community Preservation Committee by Susan Steele- With Susan Steele absent from the meeting, this item was tabled for a future meeting.
6. **New Business-** There were no new business items suggested.
7. **Motion to adjourn-** Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Panto seconded the motion.

Poll: A unanimous poll was reached to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.