

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, November 10, 2016
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, J. B. Jones, Marilynne K. Roach, Thomas Melone, Donald Berg,

Member(s) Absent: Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan T. Steele

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness (Adopted 1.12.17)

David J. Russo chaired.

1) Minutes- September 8, 2016

After a brief review, the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion: Melone made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 8, 2016 HC meeting. Berg seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adopt the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting.

2) Minutes– October 13, 2016

After a brief review and discussing a minor correction the minutes of the October 13, 2016 HC meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion: A motion was made by Melone to adopt the October minutes with a minor modification. Russo seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached adopting the October minutes with a minor modification.

4) Follow Up Discussion- MHC 2017 Fiscal Year Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program. Pre-Application Deadline November 14, 2016. Full Applications Invitation issued December 14, 2016. Full Application Deadline February 6, 2017. Award Selection March 6, 2017. Project end date-June 30, 2018.

Hayward explained that he wanted to take a moment to bring up the MHC 2017 Commission Survey and Planning Grant again at this meeting, although it was unlikely to be

able to get a proposal together in such short time. Hayward said that there were a lot of potential projects in town, although the proposal would need to be submitted by next week.

There was a brief discussion of the MHC 2017 Fiscal Year Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program and the deadline to comply with the Pre-application process. It was agreed upon that it was not realistic to complete the requirements of the program in time for meeting the deadline for the pre-application process on the following week.

Russo agreed that it was too overwhelming to get a proposal together so quickly but urged members to keep this in mind over the coming year for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

5) New Business

a. The Arsenal on the Charles – Single Environmental Impact Report Submittal-To be discussed at December 8, 2016 meeting.

Individual copies of the Single Environmental Impact Report submittal were handed out to HC members. Hayward explained that a discussion would be posted on the agenda for the December 10, 2016 Historical Commission meeting. He also said that copies of the report would be mailed out by the Conservation Office to the two HC members not present at the meeting tonight.

Directly related to the contents of the report, Agent Hayward explained that this document explains what Athena wants to do on the property, but this is not something that the Historical Commission would comment on. Hayward clarified that all HC members may make comment to this report as individual private citizens if they felt led.

Hayward explained that the HC will be asked to comment on the Mass Historical Commission Letter that will issue at a later date.

Russo requested that Hayward discuss in more details the recent concerns around commission members making comments in public about town issues in their official capacity as members of a commission.

Hayward explained that Mr. Driscoll, the town manager has reached out to K & P, the Law Firm representing the town on obtaining the most accurate advice for everyone involved in any commission business. Hayward explained that there have been numerous questions recently around the subject of participating in the public process as private citizens, as public officials and employees or members of any of the town commissions.

Hayward said that more information will become available on this subject matter hopefully by December 8, 2016 Historical Commission meeting.

Hayward reminded the HC of the Open Meeting Law Training Materials that had been emailed out to each members of the HC as a PDF document in the last week.

6) Other Business

Russo informed the commission that he is going to Mt. Auburn Cemetery to work on his Form-B project, to survey and inventory buildings for the historic registry. He is currently

working primarily on monuments and at this time it totals around 235 of them. He said his goal is to submit the form B's to Mass Historic by early winter.

Joyce Kelly of the Historical Society commented that she saw some progress being made at the Orchard House which appeared to have been painted recently. Hayward said that Sherwin Williams donated the paint for that project. It was not clear if the column and the window that were both broken had been repaired.

Kelly also said that Shary Berg has been working on Mass Historic Form- C's to survey and inventory objects for the historic registry. Kelly planned to meet with Berg and Marilynne K. Roach at the Fowle House on Friday morning for a status report.

Russo asked Kelly to please inform him if they were working with any Mass Historic numbers so that they could discuss which numbers were being used to avoid any conflict with the numbers he is using for his work at the cemetery.

Russo announced that this was the last Historical Commission meeting that J.B. Jones would participate in as a member. Russo also said that he appreciated Jones's 12 years of outstanding service and that he would be greatly missed by everyone. A long and hardy round of applause was shared to honor Jones at his very last meeting as an official member of the Historical Commission.

Motion: Jones made his final motion to close the meeting. Berg seconded Jones's final motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached closing the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.