

**Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, March 9, 2017
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.**

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Thomas Melone, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Donald Berg, Joseph Panto

Member(s) Absent: Susan Steele

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness (adopted 4.13.17)

David J. Russo chaired, he began by welcoming the new member of the Historical Commission Mr. Joseph Panto, who is a 17 year resident of the town of Watertown who resides on Ladd St. Panto has a family with three children and enjoys exploring the history of Watertown with them. Panto was warmly welcomed by the HC as their new member, and also by the town staff and attendees of the meeting as well.

1. Minutes – February 9, 2017

After a review of the Minutes from the February 9, 2017 Historical Commission (HC) meeting, a motion was made.

Motion: Melone made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 9, 2017 HC meeting. Roach seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached adopting the minutes from the February 9, 2017 HC meeting.

2. Update on Letter– 101-103 Morse Street redevelopment

Prior to the meeting this evening, Andrea Adams, Senior Planner sent an email to the Clerk of the Conservation Office updating her of the concerns that the Community Development and Planning Office (CDDP) has about the proposed development at 101-103 Morse St.

The email which was read into the record by Russo at the meeting, as written by Adams and stated that CDCP mirrors the concerns expressed by the Historical Commission's letter dated February 27, 2017 about this project, which was written to the Planning Boards members for consideration in their decision on this project.

Also stated in the email by Adams, is that CDCP is expecting that the Petitioner will update their current set of plans in advance of the next public hearing before the Planning Board scheduled for April 12, 2017.

A copy of the letter written by the HC has been provided to the Petitioner in 101-103 Morse St., and a copy will also be provided to the Planning Board members.

3. Old Business

- a. 2017 Preservation Awards – Nominations due April 6, 2017 for review at April 13, 2017 HC meeting. Awards Ceremony at Commander's Mansion – Possible dates of event to be discussed - May 18 or May 25 Awards Ceremony at Commander's Mansion – Possible dates of event to be discussed - May 18 or May 25.

After a brief discussion, the HC decided to hold the Historical Preservation Awards for 2017 on May 18, 2017.

All nominations should be received by the Conservation Office no later than April 6, 2017 so that they can be reviewed by the HC at the regularly scheduled April 13, 2017 meeting.

The Clerk for the Conservation Office will post a copy of the announcement for the awards, along with links to the Nomination Packages up on the web site. Updates will be made to the web site adding links to the event information related to the event, and its location as well.

4. New Business

- a. Russo explained that there is a public hearing item expected for the next HC meeting as a result of a voluntary demolition which occurred without approval of the HC or issuance of the appropriate permitting by the Building Department.

The HC has the authority to impose up to a 2 year ban on building on the lot as a penalty for the voluntary demolition.

It is believed that the town has other relief to exercise as well, which is being researched at this time.

Loukas questioned whether or not it should be factored into the penalty if the HC would have voted that the house was not preferably preserved.

- b. The Clerk for Conservation passed around a copy of Sweet Auburn, a publication of the Mount Auburn Cemetery which contained an article about Russo and the historical research he conducted with the resources provided at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery. She informed the HC that she would post a pdf of the article up on the HC web site, along with a copy of the flyer for the Historical Society Annual meeting which also features a presentation by Russo.

- c. Joyce Kelly of the Historical Society updated the HC that she had met with Roach and Erik Dray, the new Historical Preservation Consultant who was hired to replace the former consultant to conduct the process of getting the town's two burial grounds onto the National Registry last week. She said they had a good, productive meeting.

Meeting adjourned.