

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Thomas Melone, Susan Steele, David Russo, Joseph Panto, Donald Berg, Elise Loukas

Member(s) Absent: Marilynne Roach

Staff Present: Andrea Adams, Susan C. Jenness (Adopted 1.11.2018)

David J. Russo opened the meeting and explained the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission, as well as what could and could not be discussed.

- 1. Public Hearing- 14 Downey St.-** Continuation to consider the Demolition Permit Application submitted for an existing single family cape style house with aluminum siding and an asphalt roof, built in approximately 1952. Two town house style homes are proposed. Jane E. Tobin, Owners/ Kamel Alhady, Applicant

Alhady appeared before the HC and explained that he had met with the Planning Department on two occasions to work out the issues he discussed with the HC at the November meeting.

Adams explained to the commission that in the news plans, there had been a reduction to the massing of the building, and that the project was all set in terms of Zoning.

Alhady explained that the small balconies and decks had been removed.

Berg said that he was very appreciative of the changes the applicant was willing to make to the plans and that overall he liked the new proposed version.

Steele said that she liked the bay windows and the reduction of the scale.

Loukas said that she felt that this was a great example of how the HC works with the applicants in an effort to protect the town.

Melone said that he was happy with the changes as well.

Motion: Melone made a motion that the house at 14 Downey St. was not preferably preserved. Berg seconded the motion.

Vote: A vote of 5 members was reached that the house at 14 Downey St. was not preferably preserved. Panto recused himself.

2. Minutes- from December 14, 2017 Historical Commission (HC) Meeting.

Motion: Berg made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2017 Historical Commission Meeting. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the minutes from the November 9, 2017 Meeting.

3. Review and Adoption- Historical Commission Meeting Filing Dates for 2018.

Motion: Berg made a motion to approve the Historical Commission Meeting and Filing Dates for 2018. Steele seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the meeting and filing dates for 2018.

4. Discussion Items from November 9, 2017 meeting.

- a. Status report on inspection of items at the library making it possible to bring in sub-committee members from the Historical Commission to inspect items of interest at that time.

Russo reported that Steve Magoon would soon have some dates to offer the HC for when other town departments would be visiting the library to review the contents for sorting. He asked the clerk to follow up again on this item for the January 2018 meeting.

- b. Status report on Orchard House

Russo asked the clerk to add this item to the January 2018 agenda to follow up when more information would be available.

5. New Business

- a. Watertown Historical Markers- List of locations, descriptions and references to their photographs by Sheppard Ferguson

Russo explained that Mr. Ferguson had gone out and photographed and recorded the inscriptions of the historical town markers and filed a list of the items in a document with the Historical Preservation Office.

The HC discussed the submission and made remarks about how generous it was for Mr. Ferguson to have done this work on his own. Russo said he would write a letter thanking Mr. Ferguson on behalf of the HC, and that he thought it would be a good idea to ask him if he would consider filing Form B's on the items he reported that could be filed with

Mass. Historic. Russo pointed it that if he were willing to do that, it would add to the documentation that had been filed by others over the years under similar circumstances.

The HC agreed that this was a good approach and Russo agreed to work on his letter over the next few weeks and send it to Ferguson, with a copy to the Watertown Office of Historical Preservation.

b. Review of Framed Photographs and Historical News Clippings Donated by Chester G. McCarthy.

The HC reviewed a set of framed photographs that had been dropped off in the Office of Historical Preservation by Chester G. McCarthy. The photographs consisted of pictures that had been taken of some of the members of the local Elks lodge, as well as photographs of some Elks Lodge events dating as far back at 1925.

The HC discussed the photographs and agreed that it would be a great idea to see if the Elks Lodge would be interested in obtaining the photographs for their own use.

The Clerk agreed to contact Mr. McCarthy and ask him if he approved of the office contacting the Elks to ask if they would like the pictures.

- c. Mass Preservation Projects Fund-Round 24-Applications are due March 23, 2018-** Workshops on Applications are being offered January 11, 2018-Williamsburg, MA; January 17, 2018-Boston, MA; January 25, 2018- Millbury, MA; January 30, 2018-Boston MA; February 8, 2018-Plymouth, MA. Russo reviewed the Mass Preservation Projects Fund with the HC. He explained that they would need to have a project as a subject and also have some means of funding in order to move forward with submitting an item for this event. The Clerk explained that the dates listed were a list of when and where workshops were being offered to support those who wished to become applicants for the Mass Preservation Projects Fund for 2018.
- d. This was the last HC meeting for Don Berg who was stepping down after 12 years of service to the HC.** The members of the HC reminisced about how Berg had become a member of the commission back when they were taking a windshield survey. Members agreed that his experience as a builder and contractor would be greatly missed, in addition to being missed as a long standing member of their group.
- e. Matthew Walter was introduced by Russo as the new member on the HC taking the place of Berg to begin officially once he has been sworn in by the Town Clerk.** Walter explained that he also has a good deal of experience as a builder, and that he is truly looking forward to serving as a member of the Historical Commission.

Motion: Berg made his last motion at 8:30 PM to close the meeting. Melone seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached closing the meeting at 8:30 PM.