



CITY 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
Richard Glenn, Member

Minutes: Thursday, December 8, 2022, Remote Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Elise Loukas, Susan Steele, Marilynne Roache, Matthew Walter, Richard Glenn

Member(s) Absent: Thomas Melone, Joseph Panto

Public Present:

Staff Present: Larry Field, Senior Planner

1. Field confirmed the absence of Susan Jenness for this meeting based on a situation that took place at the previous meeting. He said he has worked with Jenness and values her contributions as a colleague.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes** - Review and Acceptance of Minutes from October 13th Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed.

Motion- Walter made a motion to accept the minutes from October 13, 2022, as revised. Glenn seconded the motion.

A roll call taken, and all agreed with the motion.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes** - Review and Acceptance of Minutes from November 10th Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Walter made a motion to accept the minutes from November 10, 2022. Roach seconded the motion.

A roll call was taken, and all agreed with the motion.

4. Tribute to JB Jones, long time member of the Historical Commission, recipient of the 2017 Special Recognition Award at the Historic Preservation Award, and friend.

David Russo was not available to make his presentation and this item was continued to the agenda for the January 12, 2023, meeting.

5. Commission Discussion- Demolition Delay Ordinance Regulations.

Field reported that the section of the Demolition Delay having to do with the period of delays, section 153.03 can technically be shortened.

Field informed members that the length of Demolition Delay, part of the Bylaw Ordinance is being looked at currently. A report and recommendation is being worked on, that would be placed on the City Council Agenda for council to take action. Feltner and Piccirilli and Gants seem to sincerely understand the issues around this. Loukas said she thought it was nice that they are researching these issues and took an interest in a subject that was of interest to all of us.

6. Commission Discussion- Historic Assets Inventory

Field reported that the Pre-Application form for Massachusetts Historical Commission grant money had been delivered on time for the 11/14/22 deadline. The scope for this funding would be a survey of the Southside area of Watertown. At the same time, Field said he would continue working on finding an architectural historian to help with the raw data created by David Russo. A historian was consulted who was not able to take on the project, but they did comment that this effort was a sound idea to focus on.

7. CPC Update by Matthew Walter

Walter had no updates for the CPC this month.

Loukas confirmed that the historical projects before the CPC this year were the proposals for the Fowle House, the cemetery proposals and the proposal for the Commanders Mansion.

Roach reported that the mural had been taken down in City Hall that day. This was the proposal from historical funds before the CPC last year. It was clarified that there are no

projects approved for funding at this time, but they are applications for the projects referred to by Loukas. Field reported there is 1 one application pending for housing funds.

8. Discussion A. Categories of the Historic Preservation Awards

Loukas apologized and said she had been prepared for this item earlier in the month but had not brought the material to the meeting to discuss. She asked to move the item on to the agenda for the January meeting.

9. Agent Report

Walter reported he will be out for the January meeting.

Loukas commented she had been affected by the missing presence of Jenness during this meeting. Loukas said she believed members of the commission have had the ability to rise to new levels as a direct result of Jenness's education, insightfulness, and constant, steady support over the last 8 plus years.

The meeting was adjourned.