



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, June 9, 2022, Remote meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

Member(s) Absent: Thomas Melone

Public Present: N/A

Staff Present: Larry Field, Senior Planner, Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

1. Review- Minutes from May 9, 2022.

The minutes from the May 9, 2022, meeting was reviewed. There were no comments from the members, and a motion was made to accept the minutes.

Motion: Roach made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2022, meeting. Steele seconded the motion made by Roach.

Poll: A poll was taken, and members voted to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022, meeting.

2. CPC Update

A. Update on CPC Business by Matthew Walter

Walter reported that the CPC is currently heading into the next funding cycle. The CPC is reviewing the processes used over the last cycle, which was also the first one. They are looking to possibly refine the processes from last cycle, in ways that work more effectively in this upcoming cycle.

Walter reported there is considerable amount of funding for Historical Preservation proposals and said this was a good time to encourage people to apply, utilizing the summer months to prepare. He clarified that anyone who is interested in applying for funds should reach out to Lanae Handy to explore whether the project fits the criteria for CPC funding for a Historic Preservation project. Handy may also help them with directions on how to apply accurately.

Walter also suggested it can be helpful in the application process for each project to come before the Historical Commission early in the process for review of the historical significance of the asset. Loukas said she did not think that review was needed before the CPC determined that the project was eligible for funding. Walter said he believed it would be helpful to avoid wasting time in the application process if the Historical Commission made the determination of historical significance before the CPC's eligibility decision. Field added that last year the Commission's role came after the CPC eligibility process because there were no definite rules in place; Loukas did not recall it this way. Walter said he may not have all the necessary information about how the CPC wanted the process to work and said that he would seek a definite answer by the time of the next month's meeting.

Walter said this could be a good time to approach the city administration about getting a historic inventory of properties into the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Loukas pondered that there could be an opportunity to get 50% funding through Massachusetts Historical Commission. Field said the planning department's proposed budget included money to hire a consultant for such an inventory. Field said this was proposed because last year the CPC declined funding for a historic inventory. Loukas said she was extremely grateful he had taken measures to get this money in the proposed budget, but also indicated she would have felt more supported if she was informed about this development prior to hearing it at this meeting.

3. Discussion

A. Historic Preservation Awards

Jenness had sent out a list of categories for the Historic Preservation Awards to members of the HC. She also sent out the nomination packets she had worked on with Loukas back in 2019, along with power point presentations of previous awards ceremonies. She said she sent out the categories because Walter had been interested in making sure the categories would incentivize developers to preserve historic structures. Jenness explained that while it was a great idea to start talking about the awards ceremony now, it would not be enough time to put together a ceremony in time for September. The members of the HC were urged to take the time to review the material that was sent to them between now and the next meeting. Loukas said she thought it was a good idea to launch the process at the turn of the year in 2023 as they had done in previous years.

4. Memorial Day Parade

- A. Joe Panto and Elise Loukas will share highlights from the Historical Commission's participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Panto said that Memorial Day was a super day, and he was incredibly honored to drive William Chase, who is a veteran of the US Navy, through the parade route personally. Loukas said that she heard Chase had served at least two tours of duty, in his career, and that he may have truthfully served in two branches of the armed services. Loukas said she was able to find out Chase had returned home from service, then re-enlisted for a second tour.

Loukas said she walked the route and gave out candy and met many residents during the joyful day of honoring those who served. Panto said he was thrilled he finally got the chance to participate in Memorial Day 2022, and said he plans to do so again in 2023 if possible. He said it was most enjoyable to spend the day with the kids in the back of the cars, along with the family dog peeking out the window along the route.

Panto who said he has a lot of photos from the event, is sending photos to Jenness to be use in the future annual report or the HPA ceremony.

5. Agent Report

Field reported that the Demolition Delay proposal worked on by members of the Historical Commission has gone to the City Council and will be put on a future agenda for discussion and a vote. Walter inquired what the next step would be. Field clarified it would then go to legal council for review. He said there was no definite timetable, but he hoped council would have a chance to review it by the end of June. Walter asked if it was time to make any overtures. Field said there was nothing wrong with having a conversation in passing if he felt led.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

Motion: Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Steele seconded the motion.

Roll Call: A roll call was held, and all members agreed with the motion made by Walter.