



CITY OF WATERTOWN
Historical Commission
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

Elise Loukas, Chair
Susan Steele, Member
Marilynne K. Roach, Member
Joseph Panto, Member
Matthew Walter, Member
Richard Glenn, Member
Edward G. McCourt, Member

Minutes: Thursday, October 12, 2023, Remote Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Public Present:

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

Loukas opened the meeting as Chair.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes**- Minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting.

Roach had one update for the HC Minutes for the September 14, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Roach made a motion to accept the minutes as amended from the September 14, 2023, meeting. McCourt seconded the motion made by Roach.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken and the minutes from September 14, 2023, meeting were accepted unanimously as amended.

Walter asked if other members of the commission thought it was prudent to make notations in the minutes that specified how commissioner members voted in the demolition delay hearings. Jenness says she would need assistance from others to keep up with identifying those whose votes were not in the majority. Loukas volunteered to slowly call out the names of members who were not in agreement with a motion in the future, and other members said they would help in the process if needed when reviewing minutes.

2. **Agent Report-** Field reported that an excellent consultant had been selected and work would start the South Side survey in the next couple of weeks.

Field reported he made a mistake in not notifying members of the Historical Commission that their reappointment meetings for members of the Historical Commission would now take place before the Resident Advisory Committee. Field explained the change in process came about in January, when the Charter was put in place by the city. He explained members who were up for reappointment would be notified and asked to set up an appointment by a member of the staff in the Office of the City Manager in the future.

3. **CPC Update-** Walter reported there were two historical project applications that were moving forward for CPC funding. The projects were for Mt. Auburn Cemetery Scotts Fence and the Browne House. Walter said that the Methodist Church on Mt. Auburn St. had also applied for funding after being deemed historic, and their application which was for \$700,000.00 was being reviewed. He pointed out the funds they were applying for would not just be used for preservation purposes, so there were some questions being examined.

Walter reported that the application for historic funding for the Clerk's Office to preserve historic records and the application for the North Branch Library project had been withdrawn.

4. **Meeting and Filing Dates for 2024-** The meeting dates and filing deadlines had been considered by members over the last two meetings.

Motion- Walter made a motion to accept the 2024 meeting/filing dates. Steele seconded the motion made by Walter.

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

Loukas and Walter commented that only one demolition project had been reviewed since the amendment to the Demolition Delay Ordinance had gone into effect. Loukas explained that the project was reviewed by Loukas and McCourt and found to not be architecturally and/or historically significant, so there was no demolition hearing before the Historical Commission. Loukas and other members of the Commission agreed it would be interesting to see how the changes to the ordinance would impact the applications for demolition coming before the Commission.

Motion- Glenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Roach seconded the motion.

Roll Call- All members agreed with the motion made by Glenn.