

## **Historical Commission Meeting, 11/9/20**

Held via Zoom

Members present: Peter Johnson, Charlie Minott, Judy Grecco, Caleb Estabrooks, Chris Haraden  
Others: Steve Ryerson

### **Agenda items**

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Review and approve meeting minutes.** No changes to draft submitted. Motion by Charlie to approve as written. Second by Judy. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

**Planning survey grant update.** Phase 2. Grants from MHC have a Local Project Manager (LPM). Peter had a wrapup meeting with Ann Lee, and Virginia from PAL with some of her associates. PAL is behind where they should be under the contract, but will finish all the corrections and additions by November 30. We need to submit all paperwork to MHC for reimbursement by December 15. Peter met separately with Ann Lee to discuss the background of the project. We lost one of the reimbursable grants for \$15,000 because the former planner, Michele Grenier, did not submit the paperwork for it. That funding is not able to be retrieved, as the books are closed. Peter also reviewed with Ann the town meeting appropriations through the CPA; there are some charges included that are unknown to us. Peter will investigate further.

**167 Washington Street update.** Sylvester Field. Peter and Caleb have been corresponding with David DeGhetto, chairman of the Norwell Historical Commission regarding restoration of the stone wall on the property. The Wildlands Trust magazine has the field on the front page of its latest edition, and there is an article within about the project to acquire the land in conjunction with the town. Wildlands is looking to raise \$335,000 for its share. Agreement for the 7-acre wooded lot is nearly finalized and Wildlands Trust will purchase it within several weeks. Also, a deed restriction is being planned for the 2.5-acre house lot. Asking price is \$799,000. The 10-acre field itself has a purchase and sale agreement pending. The only remaining piece is the funding. Looking for \$250,000 from the town. Kickoff of the fundraising campaign will be later this month; on November 21 (rain date November 22) there will be a walk to introduce the property to the public and discuss its history. Exploring the idea of nominating the wall to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Eagle Scout project/Joseph Campo.** Most of the marker signs have been installed. Joseph is still looking for an appropriate location for the sign at the former train station terminal in the Broadway/Columbia Road area.

**Barn at 179 Union St.** Peter reports that the owner has sold the house and is trying to develop the remaining property into two lots, but needs ZBA approval. Hearing is November 18. We would like to get into the barn and determine whether it is historic. Chris has tried to reach out a few times with no reply. Peter to get in touch with him. Chris will send the contact info to Peter.

**Assinippi General Store.** Store is closing. Not sure what is happening with the building itself. Eating Establishment is not renewing its lease when it expires next month. The Commission is trying to be

proactive for preservation, as this has been identified by the Commission in the past as a building that is significant to Hanover's history.

**Report on Preservation Massachusetts presentation on historic school reuse.** A recording may be posted on the website. Peter attended. Members of PAL were part of the discussion of converting a school to affordable housing. Not necessarily congruous to the reuse of Sylvester School, but interesting to follow the process that others have used.

**Peterson Pond dam removal.** State has sent info to Peter on behalf of the Commission, as the work on the pond dam behind the mall movie theater has gotten under way. This is the last of several dams that have been removed along Third Herring Brook.

**CPA update.** Town Hall elevator is being repaired for now, and Bill Scarpelli from the CPC has suggested that the town may seek to use CPC funds to replace the elevator entirely. The elevator itself is not historic but it does make the historic part of town hall accessible, which could be justified as a preservation goal. We are awaiting word from the state CPA coalition about whether this is an appropriate use of the funds. CPC has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow and will discuss the proposals that have been submitted, only a handful for this cycle.

**Report on Historical Society.** Judy reports that the annual meeting was held on November 4. A member has offered to compile a list of homes that have date boards. We could help by supplying the data from the PAL surveys.

Motion to adjourn by Charlie, seconded by Caleb. Vote 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

Monday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Monday, January 11, 7 p.m.