

Historical Commission 1/10/22

Members present: Peter Johnson, Charlie Minott, Judy Grecco, Caleb Estabrooks, Chris Haraden
Others: Steve Ryerson and Erik Boyer of the Wildlands Trust, for the relevant item on the agenda

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Review and Approve Minutes from 12/13/21.

Vote: Motion by Caleb to approve, Judy seconded.

Vote = 5-0

Wildlands Trust presentation. The trust is planning to widen the opening the stone wall in order to provide access to a planned parking area. Washington Street is a scenic road. Erik Boyer, director of stewardship, outlined the plan to remove a five-foot section of the wall and an 18-inch dbh tree. As mitigation, they will plant another tree along the wall. Grant has been applied for, will know decision in the spring. Work to be done in the summer. Commissioners offered some suggestions and feedback on the potential for reusing the granite being removed as an entrance marker and potentially a bench, also to look forward at the potential for a more intensive restoration of the wall. Members expressed support for the plan and Peter texted the Commission's support to Maryann Brugnoli, the planning board chairperson. That board is holding a hearing this evening.

733 Main Street. Peter reported that the trustee indicated that the owner has not changed her mind regarding alternatives, such as a retreat lot or variance. As we get closer to the expiration of the delay, there is less incentive for the owner to preserve the house. Chris suggested making the fact that the house is available known to the public would help attract attention. Judy to bring it to the Historical Society at its meeting this Wednesday night for ideas.

Caleb is supportive of trying to preserve the outbuildings, and that this might be possible within the six-month time frame.

Members will report back at the next meeting after contacting potential developers and the Historical Society.

Establishing Local Historic Districts. No update. Caleb looking to connect with the town manager.

Sylvester School. No ramp in the back as yet.

Historic Resources Survey, Phase 3. Charlie has printed a large map, a 30x25 display of the houses that have been surveyed already. Suggests at the next in-person meeting we go over the map and make some decisions on the properties to add to the next phase of the survey.

Planning/Goals. Charlie got info on model demo delay bylaw from MHC. Not very helpful or up to date. Also got a copy of the City of Salem's bylaw that has more definition of the demolition, including partial demolition. Charlie will send these out for members to review. Peter and Steve Ryerson discussed the possibility of using the town's website to announce that survey forms are available for some old houses in Hanover, and if residents contacted the Commission, Peter would send out the files.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Next meetings:

February 8, 2022

March 14, 2022