

Hanover Historical Commission Meeting – January 20, 2021

Members Present: Peter Johnson, Caleb Estabrooks, Judy Grecco

Members Absent: Chris Haraden and Charlie Minott

Others Present: Stephen Ryerson, Steve Louko of the CPC joined the meeting during the discussion of the Sylvester TM article

Meeting held via Zoom

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Review and approve meeting minutes. Tabled.

Sylvester/Salmond Schools - Proposed CPA article. Judy and Caleb attended the most recent Community Preservation Committee meeting, and it is unclear if the town meeting article dealing with the Sylvester School proposal is being amended to include the Salmond School. Potential for using funding from the Affordable Housing Trust to pay for the study if it were to include affordable housing within the overall plans. There is nothing currently for the Commission to vote on.

Steve Louko from the CPC joined the meeting during this discussion. There is only the original article, not any revisions. The CPC is meeting tomorrow night; Judy and Peter will plan to attend. He is asking if the Commission could support the town meeting article as written, which does not currently mention the Salmond School, but members of the committee being formed will include the superintendent and school committee, as one option is the relocation of the school department offices from Salmond to Sylvester. Some members are concerned that Salmond is not included in the wording of the article that will be presented at town meeting, as the futures of the buildings are intertwined under the proposal that is envisioned. Others said they are willing to look at the structure of the article that is being presented and consider Sylvester individually.

Regarding voting on the matter, members present expressed the opinion that they preferred having the full Commission available to weigh in on making a recommendation.

Procedure for establishing a Local Historic District. Law allows for a single-building historic district in addition to the traditional format of an area of town with several properties included. Process requires a study committee to be appointed by the selectmen before a district can be acted upon by town meeting. This elongates the timeline for what is possible to be done. Caleb will create the initial request for a study committee that can be reviewed at the Commission's next meeting. Considering the Four Corners area and Assinippi as potential areas to create a local district.

Review of 1078 Hanover Street. Inquiry about historic value came to the Commission through the website. Owner is believed to be considering demolition. Judy has seen the interior and at least the first level has been stripped of any historic features that may have existed. Exterior of the property is not in good condition. Many old trees on the property, but there appears to be little to be preserved. Not in the MACRIS database of historic properties in Hanover. Assessors database lists the year built as 1900. Sense of the Commission is that there is no historic significance to the property known at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.