

# Historical Commission Meeting Minutes 4/12/21

Held in-person at Hanover Town Hall and online via Zoom

Members present: Peter Johnson, Charlie Minott, Judy Grecco, Caleb Estabrooks, Chris Haraden  
Others present: Steve Ryerson, Attorney Greg Cogan (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm

Agenda items

The chairman announced that the meeting is being recorded.

## **Review and approve minutes**

Meeting from January 20, 2021.

Motion to approve by Chris, seconded by Charlie. Motion to approve carries 5-0.

Meeting from March 8, 2021.

Motion to approve by Chris, seconded by Charlie. Motion to approve carries 5-0.

## **733 Main Street is taken out of order (listed as #6 on the agenda)**

Gregory Cogan, 201 River St., Norwell, trustee of the trust, is present via Zoom link.

Peter reported that he met today with the Mr. Cogan, the trustee, and one of the family members of the beneficiaries

Others were a surveyor and a representative of the builder who were investigating the feasibility of building a house on the site.

A request and application for a demolition permit was received by the town last week. The Commission must now consider the plan.

A retreat lot was discussed as an option for the property.

Tonight, the commission will determine a date to meet on site to tour the property. Also, a Historic Properties Inventory Form B shows 1832 date for the front part of the house and the rear portion could be from 1712. Peter also viewed the outbuildings during his visit, and some could be from the 1800s. A foundation of a barn that was never built is on the property, as is a cart path. The Commission's custom is to visit sites before a vote is taken on whether the building is determined to be historically significant under Bylaw 6-26.

Site visit was scheduled for April 24 at 10 am.

Next meeting is April 29 at 7:30 pm at Town Hall. Main topic is the property, but any other action relating to town meeting could be added to the agenda.

## **Town Meeting Articles.**

Brief updates on articles relating to the Commission.

Caleb reported on the CPC article on purchasing a conservation restriction on Sylvester Field. Funding is expected to come from several sources:

\$100,000 from Wildlands Trust

\$200,000 from a grant that will match donations from private citizens

\$250,000 from town meeting article.

Fundraiser is going well so far.

The purchase price is \$585,000, the Wildlands Trust plans to set aside \$15,000 for parking and put \$100,000 into an endowment for ongoing maintenance.

Sylvester School article. Peter reports that the selectmen have not taken a position on the study committee. The RFP period for sale or lease of the school has been expanded beyond the date of town meeting. It is unclear what effect that will have on the process.

## **Establishing Local Historic Districts.**

Presentation to the selectmen by Caleb has been rescheduled until April 26. He will ask for a vote on establishing the historic district study committee. One topic to discuss is whether the study committee should produce a report on several proposed districts or if there should be individual committees for various parts of town. Final plan goes to the selectmen, then to planning board and Massachusetts Historical Commission for approval. Some parts of the plan can be modeled on other communities.

**Assinippi General Store.**

No update.

**Surplus funds from Eagle Scout Project.**

Joseph Campo contacted Peter and said there was extra funds from the historical marker project. The Eagle Scout regulations say that surplus funds should go to the sponsor. It's unclear if the Commission has a mechanism to accept donations. Historical Society could be a good candidate. Judy says Society is constructing an interpretative sign at the Stetson House, so that could be a good fit. Peter will contact Joseph and recommend the \$75 be donated to the Society.

**Phase 3 Historic Resources Study.**

We should work toward putting out the request for qualifications for the next phase of the house survey project. We need to identify a list of properties that we want to include in this phase of the survey. Peter asks Judy to look at CPA funds remaining, we may have adequate funds in the account to pay for this phase, without having to ask for matching funds.

**MHC webinars of interest.**

Peter mentioned that there are several upcoming programs sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, including some on local historic districts.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm by Judy, seconded by Charlie. Vote is 5-0 in favor.