

# Historical Commission Minutes, 9/13/21

Members present: Peter Johnson, Charlie Minott, Judy Grecco, Chris Haraden, Caleb Estabrooks  
No others in the audience

Meeting is being recorded but not broadcast over Zoom

**Meeting called to order by the chairman at 7:03 p.m.**

**- Review and approve meeting minutes from July 12.**

Motion to approve

By Judy Grecco

Seconded by Caleb Estabrooks

Vote: 5-0

**- Update on 733 Main Street (property under demolition delay).** Peter indicated that it is his understanding that the owners are not interested in the old house but could participate in helping with the costs of moving the structure. Caleb noted that there are additional costs to make the house saleable, including building a foundation and upgrades to the structure itself. The town's involvement would be difficult to coordinate, as the town would have to find a town owned lot and then re-sell the property. Town manager has been apprised of the situation and seemed interested in finding out more. The Commission is also thinking about preserving the smaller buildings separately, if we can find a way to do that. Judy will be looking at the list of vacant land parcels that she is familiar with because of her involvement with the open space committee and will report back to the Commission.

**- Establishing Local Historical Districts.** Caleb and Peter talked with the town manager about the process for establishing the districts. Selectmen do not seem interested in pursuing a vote on the creation of a committee and are asking for information now that would be done by the study committee. Caleb is going to stay in touch with the town manager to determine if there is interest in going forward. Peter to check in as well.

**- Update on Sylvester School.** Peter and Caleb spoke with the town manager about the status of the school. Food pantry is moving in, and other town functions will be occupying the building over time. COVID testing also is being conducted there. DPW may move offices from Pond Street because of increased treatment of water at the plant. Investment there would require a ramp in the rear for accessibility, approximately \$50,000. Elevator would be too expensive. No uses are currently in mind for the second floor. Charlie's concern is that a hodgepodge of uses is being envisioned with no long-term plan for overall use. Commission to do a site visit to look at the building and make recommendations on how accessibility can be achieved without detracting from the historic nature of the building.

**- Additional shutters for town hall.** Funds that were available in the budget for the town hall project have reverted to the town's general fund. Charlie reviewed the original specs and found that they indicated that all of the windows in the older section of the building were supposed to have shutters. He contacted the architect, Gail Trachtenberg of Norwell, who told him that at the end of the project, certain tradeoffs were made and these shutters were dropped from the project because the layout of the windows on the sides of the older section of the building made it difficult to create symmetry. Former member John Goldthwait was concerned that they had been forgotten completely and was interested in an explanation and potential installation of additional shutters.

Motion by Judy Grecco

To acknowledge and accept the recommendation of the architect to omit shutters on the windows of the sides of the older section of town hall, as the layout of windows does not lend itself to a sensible placement of shutters in those areas.

Seconded by Charlie Minott

Vote: 5-0

**- Shutters on Congregational Church.** John Goldthwait has indicated that they are mismatched, and is interested in having us share with the church the information on the shutters created for town hall. We also may suggest that they come down completely. Charlie will send the information to John.

Motion by Caleb Estabrooks

To recommend that Congregational Church remove the smaller shutters on the upper part of the front facade or and consider applying to CPA to replace them with the appropriate shutters using the information from the town hall project that the Commission will provide.

Seconded by Judy Grecco

Vote: 5-0

**- Preservation Massachusetts conference, 9/23 & 9/24.** Conference to include a session on demolition delay bylaws that Chris will attend to gather information for potential updates to Hanover's bylaw.

**- Historic Resources survey, Phase 3.** Peter spoke with Ann Lee about creating the specs for the next phase. We need to provide a list of houses that we want surveyed. Charlie has copies of Phase 1 and Peter has details on Phase 2. Charlie reports that all of Phase 1 has been updated in the state's MACRIS online database.

**- Capital Projects - Town Budget.** The Commission does not currently have projects to propose, although we will explore whether relocating some of the smaller buildings from the property at 733 Main Street might fit into this category.

**- Planning/goals for the next 12 months.** Members have various projects assigned to them and continue to work on them throughout the year.

**- New date for October Meeting,** as the second Monday in October is Columbus Day holiday. Meeting set for October 18. The Commission will now meet on the third Monday of the month because of conflicts with the Open Space Committee and the North & South Rivers Watershed Association meetings.

Motion by Charlie Minott

To adjourn.

Seconded by Caleb Estabrooks.

Vote: 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.