

Historical Commission Minutes 5/9/22

Meeting held at the John Curtis Free Library, Trustees Room, and over Zoom

Members present: Peter Johnson, Charlie Minott, Judy Grecco
Chris Haraden (remote), and Caleb Estabrooks (remote)
Other present: Kenton Greene (remote), Colleen Smith (in person), William Scarpelli (in person)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Review and approve minutes from the April 11 meeting

Charlie moved to approve the minutes

Judy seconded

5-0

Name change for Luddam's Ford Park. William Scarpelli, resident of Hanover and member of the Community Preservation Committee has been researching the Wessagusset settlement (Weymouth), which references James Ludden, incorrectly identified as James Luddam, for whom Luddam's Ford Park has been named. All local historians acknowledge that in October 1632, it was James Ludden who carried Governor Winthrop across what Winthrop called the "great river" – now known to be the Indian Head River. Sources include Winthrop's diaries and notes. Scarpelli noted that misspellings were common at that time as there were few written documents to reference, and when the journal was transcribed, it was spelled Luddam instead of Ludden. There is overwhelming historical support for the spelling being Ludden, including histories of Weymouth, Norfolk County, and Hanover. Ludden was a farmer, and there are no Luddam families found in the area at that time. In 1971, a descendant of James Ludden published a book about the family and indicated that the park name was in error. Scarpelli is proposing changing the name of the park, which is shared between Hanover and Pembroke. He is asking for the Hanover Historical Commission to write a letter of support and he will make a presentation to the Pembroke Historical Commission. Include the research in the minutes and post on the website. The Commission members indicated that we are supportive of the effort to rename the park, and Scarpelli will now discuss his findings with Pembroke.

733 Main Street. Peter received an update from David DeGhetto this morning. He could not be here tonight because it is Norwell's town meeting. Union Street land passed perc test and now land is being surveyed. He is also working with an architect on drawings.

Judy attended a meeting with house movers/riggers Gordon and Shaughnessy, DeGhetto, and preservation carpenter Michael Burrey, at the house on Friday. Rep from National Grid attended and was knowledgeable. Looking at various options for getting through the wires crossing the street, and how to get the house by the high-voltage wires. May require some service interruptions, but the rep seemed to think it was possible.

Outbuildings will be preserved; unclear where they will end up.

Letters of intent are being drawn up on both the purchase of the house and the land.

DeGhetto has notified town departments about the potential for the move and are being kept updated.

Later in the meeting, just prior to adjournment, the Commission revisited 733 Main Street, as the one-year Demolition Delay is set to expire next month. The vote to institute the delay was taken on June 8, 2021. There is no mechanism for an extension in the bylaw, but the Commission can ask the owners to voluntarily allow the process that has been started to work its way through the approvals and logistical hurdles, even if it goes past June 8.

Charlie made a motion that the HHC formally requests that the owners of 733 Main Street agree to extend the demolition deadline of the house in order to allow the process currently under way to continue.

Judy seconded the motion.

4-0 (Caleb had left the meeting prior to this discussion and vote)

Historic Resources Project Phase 3. Charlie and Peter will review the list of 118 properties that are in MACRIS but not yet re-surveyed. Next step is to drive around and look at them and decide if they should be included. Also, are there others that should be added to this phase of the study?

Planning and goals for 2022. Norwell Historical Commission has criteria for preservation awards- Judy will check the website and find out more information so that we can use it as a model.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Next meetings:

June 13

July 11