

## MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2014

Present: members David Wright, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Peter Fergusson; Dwight Lueth; Tad Heuer; alternate members Joel Slocum; Arvid von Taube; advisory member Joshua Dorin; guests Miranda Bethune; Jeff Stanmyer

1. Wright called the meeting to order at 7:10pm in the Great Hall at Wellesley Town Hall.
2. Minutes: It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted for the WHC meeting of September 23, 2014.
3. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Wright provided copies of the latest draft of a letter regarding the proposed development of 135 Great Plain Avenue. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Wright to send the letter as amended to the addressees listed. In addition, Wright will draft a cover letter to accompany the copy sent to the developer, Northland Residential Corporation.
4. WHC Plaques: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for three houses: 16, 27 & 47 Livermore Road. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Heuer, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties.
5. Beebe House Reconstruction: Wright provided copies of a draft of a letter to Jordan Warshaw requesting architectural plans of the reconstructed Beebe House. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Heuer, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Wright to send the letter as amended to the addressees listed.
6. Discussion of Long-Term Goals and Administrative Issues (“Retreat”)
  - a. Building Inventory: Wright led a discussion about initiating an inventory of historical properties as described by recommendations set forth in the pre-survey completed by Kathy Broomer in 2010. No action was taken by the WHC.
  - b. “Top 100” List of Historic Properties: The WHC had a discussion about the usefulness of creating a list of the top 100 historic properties in Wellesley, as well as other options available that can help the WHC group older properties based on their historical significance. After discussion, it was decided to form a working group consisting of Dorin, Fergusson, Heuer, and Slocum to propose the criteria for assigning buildings different levels of historical significance and how they could be applied to historical properties in Wellesley. The results of the working group will be presented to the WHC within two months.
  - c. Historic Districts: The WHC discussed whether there are additional neighborhoods in Wellesley that are worthy of designation as Historic Districts or Neighborhood Conservation Districts. No action was taken by the WHC.
  - d. Storing/Displaying Historic Artifacts: The WHC discussed whether it should be looking into moving historic artifacts in the possession of the WHC from temporary storage at Town Hall and the RDF to a permanent location that is more secure. No action was taken by the WHC. In addition, Dorin proposed moving the collection of work completed by the WHC during the original inventory of Wellesley’s historical buildings and houses from the basement of the headquarters of the Wellesley Historical Society to a more accessible location. After discussion, it was agreed that Dorin will inquire from Wellesley Free Library administrators

whether there is space available at the library for the WHC to store this collection of inventory work.

- e. Website Content: Wright provided copies of a memo from former WHC advisory member Terry Catchpole with proposed improvements to the old WHC website. No action was needed by the WHC.
7. Next Meeting: It was agreed that the WHC will continue its retreat on October 14<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined.
  8. It was **moved** by Heuer, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joshua Dorin