

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2015

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Peter Fergusson; Helen Robertson; Kathy Venne; David Wright; alternate members Joel Slocum; Arvid von Taube; advisory member Joshua Dorin

Others present: Kristen DiBella (41 Howe Street); Suzan Kelley (23 Howe Street); Dick Joyce (WMLP Director); Debra Healy (WMLP Assistant Director); Jim Verner (WMLP Superintendent); Alex Gamota; Jenna Metzlik; Brittney VanderHeiden (Representatives of American Tower Corporation)

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:33pm in the Kingsbury Room at the Wellesley Police Station. Given the absence of one regular member, Heuer designated von Taube as substitute member in place of absent WHC member Dwight Lueth.
2. Citizen Speak: No citizens present chose to speak on matters not on the agenda.
3. 41 Howe Street: Kristen DiBella, owner and resident of 41 Howe Street, a house built in 1877, presented a proposal to reconstruct a farmer's porch on the front of her home in a manner similar to the one that previously existed, which would require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals because it extends within the front yard setback. She requested support from the WHC in advance of the upcoming ZBA hearing on May 7th because of the perceived difficulty to obtain a variance. After discussion, it was **moved** by Robertson, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Heuer to write a letter of support from the WHC to be sent to the ZBA and Planning Board stating that the WHC has reviewed the proposed plans as well as photographs of the existing porch, and believes that the proposed porch is historically appropriate and not more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing porch pursuant to Chapter 40A, Section 6 of Massachusetts General Law.
4. WMLP ODAS: Representatives of the American Tower Corporation gave a presentation on a proposed project conducted by the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant to establish an Outdoor Distributed Antenna System within the existing distribution of telephone and light poles within the Town of Wellesley. Such a system would require the placement of nodes on a subset of these poles and the stringing of cables between these nodes in order to connect them to a telecommunications hub on Town-owned land at 134 Weston Road. This project allows for WHC comment because the placement of some nodes are within a certain distance of historic sites and districts, and thus pursuant to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (47 CFR Section 1.1307) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800). In discussing the proposed system with the WHC, it was determined that the map provided by the American Tower consultants was incorrect, as well as the fact that only a small number of historic sites and districts were considered by the consultants and that there may be others that warrant examination. It was agreed that Heuer would provide the consultants with these additional historic sites and districts and that they would send their updated results to the WHC in advance of the next WHC meeting.
5. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for seven houses: 395 Linden Street, 14 Upland Road, 10 Waban Street, 14 Waban Street, 17 Waban Street, 11 Windsor Road, and 15 Windsor Road. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed 6-0 (with one abstention)** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of 10 Waban Street, 14 Waban Street, and 17 Waban Street. It was then **moved** by Robertson, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of 395 Linden Street, 14 Upland Road, 11 Windsor Road, and 15 Windsor Road.
6. Annual Town Meeting Update: Heuer provided an update on the favorable adoption of three articles at the recent Annual Town Meeting: the WHC request for CPC funding for its plaque program, the request

of the Trustees of the Wellesley Free Library for CPC funding to hire a consultant to develop a repair plan for the south chimney wall of the NRHP-listed Wellesley Hills Branch Library, and the amendment to the sign bylaw that would create an exemption to the bylaw for plaques issued by the WHC. No action was needed by the WHC.

7. Plaque RFP: Heuer led a discussion on how the WHC should submit a RFP to distribute CPC funding obtained by the WHC at the recent Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed that Heuer and Dorin would discuss this issue prior to the next meeting. It was also agreed to form a speaking group consisting of Dorin, Fergusson, von Taube, and Wright to determine how the WHC should publicize its plaque program.
8. Plaque files: Heuer provided an update regarding the acquisition of WHC plaque-related files stored at the Wellesley Historical Society. It was agreed that Heuer and Wright would collect the files in the near future.
9. Development of Historic Building Inventory: Heuer has yet to contact the working group of WHC members assigned to develop an inventory of the town's historic buildings. An email to this group will be sent out shortly.
10. Wellesley Veterans' Parade: McNally asked that all interested WHC members should email him by the end of the week if they wish to attend the Wellesley Veterans' Parade on May 17th.
11. 135 Great Plain Avenue: von Taube provided an update on the recent meeting between the Natural Resources Commission and members of the WHC to discuss the proposed subdivision of 135 Great Plain Avenue. After discussion, it was agreed that the WHC will contact the NRC to continue the discussion between the two boards if it does not hear back from the NRC by next month.
12. It was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin