

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2015

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Helen Robertson; alternate members Arvid von Taube; David Wright; advisory member Joshua Dorin; guest and Planning Board Vice Chairwoman Catherine Johnson

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:05pm in the Great Hall at Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of three regular members, Heuer designated von Taube and Wright as substitute members in place of absent member Peter Fergusson and one of the full member vacancies, respectively.
2. Citizen Speak: No citizens present chose to speak on matters not on the agenda.
3. Minutes: It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of June 11, 2015.
4. 135 Great Plain Avenue: The WHC edited the most recent draft of a letter from the WHC to the Planning Board and relevant parties regarding the proposed subdivision at 135 Great Plain Avenue. After discussion, it was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the letter as amended and authorize Heuer to send it to the aforementioned recipients.
5. Bacon Street Bridge: The WHC provided edits to a draft of a letter from the WHC to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and relevant parties regarding a proposal to reconstruct the Bacon Street bridge and underpass. After discussion, it was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to approve the letter as amended and authorize Heuer to send it to the aforementioned recipients.
6. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for fifteen houses: 15 Abbott Street, 17 Abbott Street, 12 Arlington Road, 11 Chestnut Street, 40 Chestnut Street, 48 Clovelly Road, 30 ½ Cottage Street, 6 Denton Road, 10 Denton Road, 32 Denton Road, 72 Denton Road, 16 Glen Road, 21 Leighton Road, 59 Livermore Road, and 9 Waban Street. After discussion, it was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties except 17 Abbott Street, which is owned by WHC Chairman Heuer. It was then (out of necessity given the minimum number of WHC members present) **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of 17 Abbott Street.
7. WHC Annual Report: The WHC discussed what items should be included in the WHC report within the 2015 Annual Town Report. Wright then volunteered to draft the report and provide copies for approval at the next WHC meeting.
8. WHC Membership Vacancies: Heuer led a discussion on how to recruit new members for several anticipated vacancies on the WHC. It was then **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Heuer to submit an announcement to the Wellesley Townsman, The Swellesley Report, and Town of Wellesley website that the WHC is seeking new members.
9. Historic Building Inventory: Heuer informed the WHC that the CPC still has allocated funding for the WHC to conduct the second phase of its historic building inventory. After discussion, it was agreed that Heuer will work with the Town Financial Department to develop an RFP for both the inventory project and the WHC plaque program.

10. MLP Substation: Heuer provided an update on the repairs to the roof of the historic MLP Substation, specifically on whether any repairs need to be compliant with the stretch energy code. No action was needed by the WHC at this time.
11. Route 9: Heuer provided an update on the Route 9 stakeholders' group formed recently by the Planning Board. It was then **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to appoint Wright as the WHC designee to this stakeholders' group.
12. Wellesley Inn Fireplace: Wright informed the WHC that he responded to a request from the project manager of the Belclare project on the former site of the Wellesley Inn for information on the historic fireplace that had been located within the Inn. No action was needed by the WHC.
13. Beebe House Plaque: Wright provided copies of a draft of text for the plaque to be installed at the former site of the Beebe House on Grove Street. After discussion, it was agreed that Wright would contact Jordan Warshaw to gauge his preference regarding the plaque, and inquire from WHC member Joel Slocum the cost of manufacturing such a plaque.
14. TGSC: Heuer informed the WHC that TGSC member Rosemary Donahue inquired from him whether the WHC wants to provide a statement regarding its position on the TGSC recommendations. No action was taken by the WHC.
15. Demolition Delay Bylaw: Heuer and Dorin led a discussion on the possibility of establishing a demolition delay bylaw in the Town of Wellesley. After discussion, it was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to form a working group consisting of Dorin, McNally, von Taube, and Wright to investigate this matter further, specifically examining demo delay bylaws in peer communities (specifically abutters and abutters to the abutters) and their effectiveness with the goal of making a recommendation to the WHC in the near future. It was agreed that Dorin will send an email to the members of the working group to formally launch its investigation.
16. Adjourn: It was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin