

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Peter Fergusson; Dwight Lueth; Helen Robertson; Kathy Venne; David Wright; alternate members Joel Slocum; Arvid von Taube; advisory member Joshua Dorin; guests and Wellesley Free Library Trustees Ann Howley and Beth Sullivan Woods

Also present: Jordan Harris; Sherri Pearl Horn; Kim Lysaght; Tim Lysaght; Jonathan Martin

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Great Hall at Wellesley Town Hall.
2. Citizen Speak: No citizens present chose to speak on matters not on the agenda.
3. Minutes: It was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted of the meeting of January 7, 2015. It was then **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted of the meeting of January 20, 2015.
4. Wellesley Hills Branch Library – CPC Request: Wellesley Free Library Trustees Ann Howley and Beth Sullivan Woods gave a presentation on the Library Trustees’ application for CPC funding to repair the south-facing chimney wall of the Wellesley Hills Branch Library, a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Venne, and **passed unanimously** to approve a motion of support for the Library Trustees’ CPC application for funds to repair the chimney wall. In addition, it was agreed that Heuer would draft and send a letter to CPC expressing such support of the WHC in advance of the next CPC meeting.
5. Proposed Standish Road NCD: Dorin provided an update on the actions of the Study Committee for the proposed Standish Road NCD. Additionally, the WHC answered questions from several residents of the Standish Road neighborhood regarding the official procedure to establish an NCD.
6. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for three houses: 10 Elm Street, 15 Longfellow Road, and 11 Washburn Avenue. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties.
7. CPC Plaque Funding Request: Heuer provided an update on the status of the WHC request for CPC funding for its plaque program. No action was needed by the WHC.
8. Development of Historic Building Inventory: Heuer led a discussion on how the WHC should initiate its development of an inventory of historic buildings within the Town of Wellesley. It was then agreed that the existing subcommittee charged with determining the criteria for assigning buildings different levels of historical significance (consisting of Heuer, Dorin, Fergusson, and Slocum) would meet in the near future and report back to the WHC with a recommendation on how best to proceed with the inventory. In addition, von Taube was added to the subcommittee to assist in the development of any online content associated with the inventory.
9. Beebe House: Wright provided an update on the DRB meeting and ZBA hearing on January 14th and January 15th, respectively, at which members of the WHC requested unsuccessfully that approval of the modifications to the Site Plan for the Wellesley Inn redevelopment project be deferred. Wright will continue to maintain contact with Jordan Warshaw to determine when the Beebe House subcommittee can meet with him and his architects to discuss the WHC’s recommended changes to the design of the Beebe House.

10. Town Government Study Committee: Heuer summarized the recent meeting of the Town's land use-related boards and committees on February 7th at the Wellesley Police Station at which four members of the WHC were present. No action was needed by the WHC.
11. Cheever Property: Fergusson provided an update on the actions of the Cheever property subcommittee, including the drafting of a letter to Wellesley College officials regarding the potential sale of the Cheever property. After discussion, it was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to accept the letter as amended and approve its transmittal to the listed addressees. The subcommittee will continue to meet in the near future to discuss what other steps should be taken by the WHC.
12. North 40: Wright provided copies of a draft of a letter to the relevant Town boards and departments addressing the concerns of the WHC regarding the potential development of the North 40. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to accept the letter as amended and approve its transmittal to the listed addressees. Lueth then led a discussion about whether the WHC should make a statement supporting the Town's proposed purchase of the North 40. After discussion, it was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed 5-0 (with two abstentions)** to approve the following statement: "The WHC believes that Town control of the development of the North 40 is the best outcome and therefore endorses the acquisition of the property by the Town."
13. Cell Antenna Replacement: Heuer led a discussion on the proposed replacement of a cell antenna at 372 Washington Street. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to authorize the transmittal of the following response by Heuer to EBI Consulting: "Thank you for your letter notifying the Wellesley Historical Commission about the proposed replacement of a T-Mobile cell antenna at 372 Washington Street. The Commission has reviewed the proposal and perceives it would have no adverse effect on the historical assets of the Town of Wellesley."
14. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Heuer and Dorin led a discussion on the proposed development at 135 Great Plain Avenue and how the WHC should approach the Natural Resources Commission to discuss the anticipated subdivision and the WHC's recommendations regarding the preservation of the historic features of the site. It was then **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Wright, and **passed unanimously** to form a subcommittee consisting of Dorin and Wright that will meet with NRC in the near future to discuss these issues.
15. Next Meetings: The next four WHC meetings will be held on March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, and June 9th at locations to be determined.
16. It was **moved** by Lueth, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin