

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2015

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

1. Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Arnold Room at the Wellesley Free Library. Given the absence of two regular members, Wright appointed Slocum and von Taube as substitute members in place of absent WHC members Helen Robertson and Kathy Venne, respectively.
2. Minutes: It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Slocum, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted of the meeting of December 16, 2014.
3. WHC Chairmanship: Upon the offer of resignation by Wright as WHC Chairman, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to accept such resignation and to appoint Heuer as WHC Chairman effective immediately. It was then **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Heuer, and **passed unanimously** to provide congratulations and gratitude for Wright's service for three years as WHC Chairman.
4. Beebe House: Wright provided copies of a timeline detailing the actions of the WHC regarding the Beebe House since last fall. The WHC then discussed the upcoming ZBA hearing on January 15th at which modifications to the Site Plan for the Wellesley Inn redevelopment project are to be considered. After discussion, it was agreed that Wright would provide notification to the Planning Department and the ZBA office that the WHC plans to speak at the Design Review Board meeting and the ZBA hearing on January 14th and 15th, respectively.
5. Cheever Property: Fergusson led a discussion on whether the WHC should work towards getting the Cheever Property listed on Preservation Massachusetts's list of the top 10 most endangered historic sites within the Commonwealth. Discussion also centered on whether the WHC should meet with other Town Boards to discuss the possible development of the property. After discussion, it was agreed that the existing WHC subcommittee devoted to "all things Wellesley College" would meet to further discuss the appropriate response to these issues by the WHC.
6. North 40: The WHC discussed what it should do in order to raise awareness regarding the historical assets that may be affected by the potential development of the North 40. It was then **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Wright to draft a letter addressing the concerns of the WHC and send it to Heuer for review. A draft of the letter would be presented to the WHC for approval at a future WHC meeting.
7. Proposed Standish Road NCD: Dorin provided an update on the proposed Standish Road NCD. It was then **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the language as amended of the warrant placeholder for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. It was then agreed that the WHC would hold a meeting immediately prior to Special Town Meeting on January 20th in order to appoint the Standish Road NCD Study Committee.
8. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for five houses: 134 Abbott Road, 55 Livermore Road, 28 Longfellow Road, 9 Washburn Avenue, and 49 Woodlawn 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.
9. House Plaque Database and Files: Dorin led a discussion on how the WHC could obtain possession of WHC records currently held by the Wellesley Historical Society in order to create an updated WHC database of information about Wellesley's historical buildings and structures. It was then agreed that

Heuer would contact Kathleen Fahey, curator of the Historical Society, to discuss the logistics of such a move.

10. Town Government Study Committee: Dorin led a discussion regarding the upcoming meeting of many of the Town's land use-related boards and committees on February 7th from 9am-12pm at the Wellesley Police Station, at which a representative from the WHC has been requested to attend. It was then agreed that Heuer would contact Gig Babson to request an invitation for the entire WHC.
11. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Dorin led a discussion regarding whether the WHC should approach the Natural Resources Commission to discuss the anticipated subdivision of 135 Great Plain Avenue under the Natural Resources Protection Development bylaw. It was then **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Wright to draft a letter to be sent to Heuer that would initiate the dialogue between the WHC and NRC.
12. Next Meeting: The next WHC meeting will be held on February 10th at a location to be determined.
13. It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Slocum, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin