

## MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2015

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Peter Fergusson, alternate members Dwight Lueth; Arvid von Taube; David Wright; advisory member Joshua Dorin; guest David Himmelberger; guest and Planning Board Vice Chairwoman Catherine Johnson; guest and Library Trustee Beth Sullivan Woods

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:01pm in Conference Room G at Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of three regular members, Heuer designated Lueth and Wright as substitute members in place of two of the full member vacancies. Heuer later designated von Taube as a substitute member after Lueth's early departure from the meeting.
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 amended of the WHC meeting of August 18, 2015.
4. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for twelve houses: 12 Abbott Street, 16 Abbott Street, 18 Abbott Street, 8 Cross Street, 78 Denton Road; 50 Elm Street, 3/3A Waban Street, 11-15 Waban Street, 129 Washington Street, 12-14 Weston Road, 25 Weston Road, and 47 Weston Road. After discussion, it was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties.
5. WHC Plaque Program Expansion: Heuer led a discussion on several issues relating to the WHC plaque program. After discussion, it was first agreed that Heuer will work to formally publicize the plaque program within the Wellesley Townsman and The Swellesley Report, as well as through the quarterly Town utility bill mailings. It was also agreed that Heuer will contact the Financial Department at Town Hall to initiate the RFP process associated with the CPC grant that was appropriated to the WHC to cover costs associated with the plaque program. Finally, after discussing the WHC protocol for replacing deteriorated plaques and plaques bearing the wrong year of construction, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to subsidize the entire plaque cost from the CPC hardship funds for owners who request the replacement of an existing plaque because of its poor condition or incorrect date.
6. WHC Annual Report: Wright provided copies of the latest draft of the WHC Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2015. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to approve the draft as amended and authorize Heuer to send the report to the Town Clerk.
7. WHC Vacancies: Heuer notified the WHC that he posted on both the WHC and Town websites an announcement that the WHC is seeking new members. This notice has been sent to the Town Moderator, the Deputy Executive Director of General Government Services, and the chairs of the Town's land use boards and committees. The deadline for applications is October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The WHC will interview candidates on October 29<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined.
8. Demolition Delay Bylaw: Heuer and Dorin led a discussion on reinitiating the efforts of the existing working group (consisting of Dorin, McNally, von Taube, and Wright) to examine demo delay bylaws in peer communities and their effectiveness with the goal of making a recommendation to the WHC. After discussion, it was agreed that Dorin would contact the existing working group to initiate these efforts and report back at the next regular WHC meeting.
9. School Facilities Committee Report: Heuer led a discussion on the recent recommendation by the School Committee regarding the renovations and/or replacement of Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham Elementary

Schools. After discussion, it was then agreed that Dorin would draft a letter to be sent by Heuer that thanks the School Committee for their recognition of the historic significance of Hardy and Hunnewell Schools within its recommendation, in that the proposed plan would preserve the original portions of both buildings.

10. Norman Block: Heuer led a discussion on how the WHC should respond to a report that the owner of the Norman Block on Washington Street in Wellesley Square recently contacted Town Hall to inquire about the process for repairing or rebuilding the business block. After discussion, it was agreed that Dorin would draft a Form A for Wellesley Square to provide information on the history of this building and explain its context within the development of Wellesley Square.
11. Hills Branch Library: Library Trustee Beth Sullivan Woods described the proposed plan to repair part of the bluestone walkway and steps at the National Register-listed Wellesley Hills Branch Library. After discussion, it was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the drafting and sending of a letter from the WHC to the Wellesley Free Library Trustees approving the replacement of the existing bluestone with a single piece as it does not detract from the historic integrity of the Hills Branch Library, that the installation be in accordance with the Department of Interior standards for historic preservation, and that the same material be used in so far as practicable.
12. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Heuer provided an update on the proposed subdivision at 135 Great Plain Avenue, which will be taken up at the Planning Board on October 26<sup>th</sup>. No action was needed by the WHC.
13. Historic Building Inventory / Website: Heuer informed the WHC that CPC has money allocated to the WHC for the second phase of its historic building inventory and the WHC will initiate the RFP process soon. Dorin also informed the WHC that he and von Taube have created an online historical house database on the WHC website where over 500 properties with their years of construction have been uploaded.
14. Route 9 Stakeholders' Subcommittee: Wright informed the WHC that the initial meeting of the Route 9 Stakeholders' Subcommittee was held at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board.
15. Zoning Recodification Subcommittee: Heuer informed the WHC that the initial meeting of the Town Zoning Recodification Subcommittee was held at the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board.
16. Bacon Street Bridge: Heuer informed the WHC that its letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding a proposal to reconstruct the Bacon Street bridge and underpass was received. In addition, Executive Director of General Government Services Hans Larsen has requested that the WHC coordinate with other Town boards and departments should more information on the proposal arise.
17. Beebe House Plaque: There was no update on the WHC request to Jordan Warshaw for how to proceed with the required plaque that is to be installed at the former site of the historic Beebe House at 53 Grove Street.
18. Upcoming WHC Meetings: The WHC will hold its next three regular meetings on November 17, December 15, and January 12.
19. Adjourn: It was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joshua Dorin