

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2016

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; alternate members Robert Carley; Arvid von Taube; David Wright; advisory member Joshua Dorin; appointed but not yet confirmed member Rise Shepsle; appointed but not yet confirmed alternate members; Emily Maitin; Michael Racette

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:03pm in the Great Hall at Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of five full members, Heuer designated von Taube and Wright in place of Peter Fergusson and Helen Robertson, respectively.
2. Citizen Speak: No citizens present chose to speak on matters not on the agenda.
3. New Business: Heuer informed the WHC that Bill Fullerton, local resident and former custodian at the Warren School, notified both Heuer and Executive Director Hans Larsen that the circa 1875 clock originally located at Sprague Elementary School and then moved to the basement of Warren Building has gone missing. After discussion, it was agreed that Heuer will suggest to Fullerton that he contact Facilities and Maintenance Director Joe McDonough and the Wellesley Police Department to help locate the clock.
4. Minutes: It was **moved** by Wright, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of December 15, 2015.
5. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for two houses: 130 Abbott Road and 166 Oakland 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.
6. Standish Road NCD Study Committee: Upon the request of Standish Road Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee Chair for an administrative extension of the study committee, it was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to extend the term of the Standish Road Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee for an additional year from January 20, 2016 through January 19, 2017.
7. Demolition Delay Bylaw Subcommittee Update: Dorin led a discussion on the recent activities of the Demolition Delay Bylaw Subcommittee as well as provided copies of the results of the Planning Board's residential development survey to WHC members. After discussion, it was agreed that the working group should, in addition to researching a demolition delay bylaw and the necessary supporting materials, draft a letter to the Planning Board urging that they try to address increased mansionization within the Town of Wellesley through modifying the local zoning bylaws. A draft of this letter will be presented for review at the WHC meeting in February.
8. WHC Publicity and Outreach: It was agreed to postpone a full discussion on potential publicity and outreach opportunities for the WHC except to agree that the WHC should meet with the Board of Selectmen in the near future in order to advocate for WHC acquisition of staff. Heuer will contact Selectmen Chairman David Murphy to schedule a time for the WHC to present to the Board of Selectmen. Dorin and von Taube will put together a presentation to be used at this meeting.
9. Town Unified Plan: Heuer informed the WHC that Planning Director Michael Zehner will be at the WHC meeting in February to discuss the Unified Plan currently in development by the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board in order to link the Town's Comprehensive Plan with the Town's Strategic Plan.

10. Historic District Commission CPC Grant Application: Heuer provided an update on the Planning Board's upcoming CPC request for an additional \$10,000 to revise the guidelines used by the Historic District Commission in making its determinations of appropriateness for properties located within any of the Town of Wellesley's historic districts. After discussion, it was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** that the WHC encourage the revision of the guidelines used by the Historic District Commission because it would help promote historic preservation, which is one of the primary goals of the WHC. Heuer will convey the WHC's support for this application to the Planning Board and CPC.
11. Annual Town Meeting Potential WHC-Sponsored Bylaws: Heuer provided an update on the development of placeholders for two WHC-sponsored Articles for Spring 2016 Annual Town Meeting: i) an exemption for historic structures from the Stretch Energy Code and ii) the creation of a Standish Road NCD. No action was needed by the WHC.
12. FMD Capital Plan: Heuer and Dorin led a discussion on the five-year capital plan of the Facilities and Maintenance Department, specifically regarding several projects concerning some of the Town's historic buildings including the Central Street Fire Station, the Hills Branch Library, and Town Hall. After discussion, it was agreed that Heuer will contact FMD Director Joe McDonough informing him that the WHC will be interested in any renovations to these buildings.
13. Wellesley Hills Railroad Station: von Taube gave an update on the proposed renovation of the Wellesley Hills Railroad Station. After discussion, it was agreed that von Taube will contact Project Manager Bruce Kidder to acquire plans for the proposed renovation and try to set up a meeting between Kidder and members of the WHC.
14. Wellesley Historical Society House Research Collaboration: Heuer informed the WHC that an event will be held at the Wellesley Free Library on the evening of March 3rd where residents can learn how to research the history of their houses. This event will be a collaboration between the WHC and the Wellesley Historical Society. More information will be forthcoming.
15. Beebe House Plaque: Wright provided an update on his discussions with Belclare developer Jordan Warshaw regarding the manufacturing and installation of plaques memorializing the sites of the historic Beebe House and Wellesley Inn. No action was needed by the WHC. The WHC also discussed the possibility of installing interpretive signage for the Wellesley Inn-related items located within the interior of the Belclare. It was agreed that Wright will draft text for this signage and contact Jordan Warshaw in order to determine how best to proceed with the proposed signage.
16. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Wright provided an update on the recent Planning Board public hearing for the proposed subdivision at 135 Great Plain Avenue. No action was needed by the WHC.
17. Adjourn: It was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Wright and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin