

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF March 21, 2017.

Present: member Arvid von Taube, Chair; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Board Members: Peter Fergusson, Rise Shepsle, Grant Brown; Alternates: Dwight Lueth, Emily Maitin, Joel Slocum, Robert Carley; Advisory member: Joshua Dorin; Guests: Jonathan Moll, Counsel for Babson College; Marianne Cooley, Assistant Vice President, Wellesley College; Andrea Ward, Advisory Committee, Wellesley; Vicki Schauffler.

1. Von Taube called the meeting to order at 7:06 in the Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of two full members, von Taube designated Slocum and Lueth in place of the vacant membership positions.
2. Minutes: It was moved by Fergusson, seconded by McNally, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of February 15, 2017.
3. An Interboard Meeting hosted by the Selectmen in preparation for Town Meeting will meet Wednesday, March 22. Dorin will attend.
4. Von Taube and Brown attended a Demolition Delay meeting hosted by Walpole. Christopher Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs, Massachusetts Historical Commission, attended. Von Taube and Brown, having heard reports from other communities, agreed that WHC is well prepared to present its Demolition Review bylaw. Skelly emphasized the importance of the type of historical research that WHC has done in support of the bylaw.
5. Proposed Dr. Joseph Murray Plaque: Von Taube noted that he likes the location of the plaque on the grounds of Town Hall but is concerned about the wording and layout. Fergusson and Slocum made several suggestions. Von Taube will present these ideas.
6. House Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for 2 properties: 292 Weston Road, built in 1888, was in the same family until 1992 and 75 Curve Street, built in 1914. It was moved by Fergusson, seconded by Brown, and passed unanimously to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the residences.
7. House Plaque Research Contract: Dorin submitted research for the WHC plaque program totaling 38 properties and an invoice for \$3,800. Town Meeting will vote on a new CPC grant for \$20,000 to complete additional research for historic plaques. That amount will be added to the remaining amount from the original historic plaque grant.
8. State Historic Register Listing for 323 Washington Street: Wellesley Historical Society has purchased the building. Von Taube explained that Kathleen Fahey, Curator, Wellesley Historical Society, has asked about placing the building on the State Historic Registry. The purpose is to allow the Society to apply for state grants. The Wellesley Historical Society would like support from WHC and its help in completing the application. Brown suggested WHC record the process to help the WHC in the future if it needs to apply or assist again with an application. Von Taube also noted that the WHS would like a house plaque.

9. Demolition Review Bylaw/Proposed Amendment: Von Taube reported that the Demolition Review Bylaw subcommittee after discussions with Johnathan Moll, Marianne Cooley, the Selectmen and Advisory Committee has recommended that the bylaw be limited to residential buildings. Brown explained that if WHC include academic, town and commercial buildings, the bylaw will not receive the support needed for passing. If in the future significant numbers of these buildings are demolished, WHC can revisit the issue. Brown reported that towns that do not have lists of historic properties do not exclude academic or commercial buildings. Lueth and Fergusson agreed that the WHC needs to consider a process to identify the historic buildings in Wellesley. Motion: Limit the scope of the Historic Preservation Demolition Review Bylaw to residential structures only. It was moved by Slocum, seconded by Fergusson, and passed unanimously.
10. Wellesley Hills Railroad Station: Von Taube reported that a permit has been issued for the plaque. There will be an unveiling once the plaque is installed. The photographs are being framed.
11. Beebe Plaque: Lueth indicated that a decision has been made on the text and the model. It has not been decided on what to mount the plaque.
12. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds/Famous Residents Blurbs: Von Taube reminded WHC that the Registry is requesting contributions.
13. Wellesley Wonderful Weekend: Scheduled Saturday and Sunday, May 20th and 21st. Von Taube noted that the Celebrations Committee wanted to know what WHC is planning. WHC will march with the banner. WHC will have representatives at Town Hall and the Substation.
14. Hardy, Hunnewell & Upham Committee: Dorin reported that the Master Planning Committee's recommendation to the School Committee is to build 19 section schools, first at Upham and then Hunnewell. If enrollment increases than Hardy will be reviewed. There is no explicit statement that Hardy will close. Town Meeting will be asked for funds for a feasibility study.
15. It was moved by Slocum, seconded by Lueth, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rise Shepsle

