

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF May 9, 2017

Present: Arvid von Taube, Chair; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Members: Peter Fergusson, Rise Shepsle; Alternates: Dwight Lueth, Joel Slocum, Robert Carley, Diogo Teixeira; Advisory member: Joshua Dorin; Guests: Michael Zehner, Planning Director; Catherine Johnson, Vice Chair, Planning Board; Vicki Schaffler.

1. Von Taube called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Kingsbury Room - the Wellesley Police Station. Given the absence of one full member, von Taube designated Carley in place of the vacant membership position.
2. Minutes: It was moved by McNally, seconded by Fergusson, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of April 11, 2017.
3. Demolition Review Bylaw: Michael Zehner, Planning Director, outlined the next steps to be discussed that evening and in the future necessary to enact the recently adopted Historic Preservation Demolition Review Bylaw:
 - a. The development of forms, fees, processes, procedures, and Rules and Regulations. Michael Zehner will draft a notice of eligibility letter and fee schedule. The fees will be discussed at a public hearing. The WHC will work with Zehner on the development of the other forms and Rules and Regulations.
 - b. Confirm scope of staff support to Historical Commission (i.e. agendas, notices, minutes, decisions, etc.) Zehner noted that once the schedule for the meetings is set, a room will be reserved and the meetings will be put on the town calendar, however the schedule can be changed during the year. The WHC will determine how often to hold the meetings.
 - c. Website; staff needs accessibility through the Town's system of at least a page related to demolition review; however, as the Town website is currently being overhauled, and given that the WHC is a town entity, it is preferred that the Historical Commission website be solely administered by the Town rather than as it currently is through a WHC-controlled website. Von Taube will work with Zehner and Town officials on the website transfer.
The town website should be live as of July 1 and will allow WHC to post the meeting dates, the agendas and copies of the application materials. To determine eligibility site visits may occur. Staff will assemble a portfolio on the house. Part of the process will be notification of abutters.
 - d. Regarding the additional membership sought to fill vacant positions on the WHC, it was agreed that it will seek a certified architect and realtor to fill at least two of those positions.
 - e. MUNIS is current tracking system. There will be a migration out of that system in the future.
 - f. Coordination with LHR and ZBA permit processes. It is understood that an applicant can begin the large house review and demolition delay applications at the same time, however it is preferred that any applicant would start the demolition review process prior to initiating the permitting process through ZBA. Nonetheless, the applicant is not bound to this order.
4. Proposed Dr. Joseph Murray Plaque: Robertson has verbal confirmation from Murray family supporting the plaque in honor of Dr. Joseph Murray. No action needed by WHC.
5. House Plaque Approvals: Dorin indicated there were no requests for plaques at this time.

6. Other business: Catherine Johnson, Vice-chair and Liaison to the WHC, Planning Board, announced that a public forum for the Unified Plan concerning the natural and cultural (historical) assets of the Town will be held May 31 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall. All WHC members were encouraged to attend.
7. Contracts for CPC Grants: A question has been asked by James Ryan, Finance and Budget Analyst, Wellesley Finance Department. The original plaque research grant was \$20,000. \$40,000 was the estimated cost of the contract. Ryan would like to put an RFP together for the research.
8. Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham: Dorin has been monitoring the discussions of the Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham project since 2013. The WHC communicated the interest of the Commission in the preservation of the original parts of Hardy and Hunnewell elementary schools which were determined historic by the WHC in 2014. As of late, however, discussions concerning the fate of these two school buildings suggest that their preservation is not guaranteed. It was agreed that Dorin will reach out to representatives of the School Committee and/or Board of Selectmen to acquire additional information concerning this issue.
9. WHC membership: Von Taube announced that he would be moving from Wellesley to Boston and his seat will be vacant as of July. WHC will have two open Board seats. The openings will be advertised and the candidates interviewed. If current alternates on the Board want to become full Board members, they should contact von Taube.
10. Wellesley Hills Railroad Station: Von Taube reported that the plaque and photographs were not yet hung.
11. Beebe Plaque: Lueth circulated the draft wording for the plaque. Jordan Warshaw, the developer of Belclare, has suggested edits and the location for the plaque on the Beebe House. Decisions had to be made on the wording, location, and payment for the plaque and its mounting. Lueth will continue to work with Warshaw on the finalization of the plaque text and placement.
12. Wellesley Square Wayfinding Project: Brown circulated images of the new signs that had been voted and approved by the Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Committee. These signs are to be placed in Wellesley Square. No action was needed by the WHC.
13. Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend/Parade: There will be open houses on Saturday, May 20 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Wellesley Town Hall and the Original Substation, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant. WHC members will be present to give tours. McNally will get the banner to be displayed during the parade, Sunday, May 21, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
14. It was moved by Fergusson, seconded by Lueth, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rise Shepsle

