

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2016

Present: members Arvid von Taube, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Grant Brown, Peter Fergusson, Helen Robertson, Rise Shepsle; alternate members Robert Carley; advisory member: Joshua Dorin; Planning Board liaison to WHC Catherine Johnson

1. von Taube called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Great Hall at Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of one full member, von Taube designated Carley in place of the vacant membership position.
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes: It was **moved** by Brown, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted of the WHC meeting of September 13, 2016.
4. New Business: As is required following the close of each fiscal year, the WHC needs to draft its annual report for publication in the Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2016. It was agreed that Dorin will draft the report for review at the next WHC meeting.
5. Search for Executive Director: Dorin provided an update on the search committee for a new Executive Director. Specifically, the final two candidates for Executive Director are Adam Gaudette (Town Administrator of Spencer) and Blythe Robinson (Town Manager of Upton). Both will be present at a public forum on October 20th where the candidates can answer questions from and meet with the public. Dorin noted that Upton has a demolition review bylaw and Spencer does not. After discussion, it was agreed that WHC members can email questions for the candidates to von Taube who will forward them to the search committee.
6. Unified Plan Steering Committee: Given the absence of WHC representative to the Unified Plan Steering Committee Diogo Teixeira, Dorin provided an update on the recent meeting of the steering committee. Among the major issues raised by the steering committee that were agreed needed to be addressed within the unified plan was the current dearth of relatively affordable and diverse housing, both of which can be addressed in part by preserving more of the existing housing stock. It was noted by WHC members that the issue of the low supply of affordable and diverse housing was raised as a concern by residents at the recently held public forums for the WHC's proposed demolition review bylaw. No action was needed by the WHC.
7. HHU: Dorin provided an update of the recent meetings of the HHU Master Planning Committee, including summarizing the discussions regarding future enrollment projections and the proposed scenarios involving the renovation and/or replacement of the historic portions of the Hardy and Hunnewell Elementary Schools. After discussion, it was agreed that von Taube will continue to work with the HHU MPC co-chairs to schedule a time at which the WHC can attend a HHU MPC meeting to make a presentation on the historic significance of the original Hardy and Hunnewell school buildings.

8. House Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for 2 properties: 6-8 Appleby Road and 11 Arlington Road. After discussion, it was **moved** by Robertson, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties.
9. CPC Projects: von Taube led a discussion on three proposed WHC projects considered for which CPC funding would be necessary: (i) completion of the WHC plaque program research, (ii) completion of Form Bs for approximately 25 municipal/commercial buildings, and (iii) completion of Form Bs for 20 residential properties. After discussion, it was agreed that von Taube will work with WHC representative to CPC Emily Maitin to develop CPC grant applications for these three projects. In addition, there was a discussion regarding the \$20,000 of CPC funds that was allocated to WHC in 2010 to follow through on the recommendations of the historic resources pre-survey. It was then agreed that von Taube will reach out to former WHC member Erin Hester for more information on the pre-survey.
10. WHC Bylaw Subcommittee Update. Members of the WHC Bylaw Subcommittee led a discussion on the recent works of the subcommittee, including summarizing the three recently held public forums. In addition, the WHC discussed logistics involving the possible hiring of a FTE (or partial FTE) for the administration of the demolition review bylaw process, as well as the fee schedule for demolition review applications. The subcommittee will continue to refine details associated with staff acquisition and fees, including working with the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Human Resources Board and their associated staff.
11. Wellesley Hills Station: von Taube provided an update on the acquisition and possible placement of the bronze plaque and historic photographs at Caffè Nero in the historic Wellesley Hills railroad station. The current primary outstanding issue is that the plaque is large enough to require a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was agreed that von Taube will work with Caffè Nero and ZBA to obtain the special permit.
12. House Plaque Research Contract: Dorin submitted a batch of research totaling 91 properties, 48 of them researched prior to the beginning of the plaque research contract and 43 of them research under contract, as well as an invoice for \$4300.
13. Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding: WHC representative to the Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Committee Brown provided an update on recent discussions of the committee, including the decision that an image of Town Hall will be used as the official logo for the signage in Wellesley Square. A final color for signs has not been chosen, but options considered are red, blue, and green or black and gray. No action was needed by the WHC.
14. Adjourn: It was **moved** by Robertson, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rise Shepsle