

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF December 13, 2016

Present: member Arvid von Taube, Chair; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Board Members: Grant Brown, Peter Fergusson, Helen Robertson, Rise Shepsle; Alternates: Robert Carley, Dwight Lueth, Emily Maitin, Michael Racette, Joel Slocum, Diogo Teixeira; Advisory member: Joshua Dorin

1. Von Taube called the meeting to order at 7:05 in the Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall.
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes: it was moved by Shepsle, seconded by McNally, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of November 10, 2016.
4. New Business: Unified Plan Steering Committee Update: Teixeira reported that issues of tear downs and the demolition delay bylaw were getting a lot of attention by the Committee. He suggested that this was an opportunity to talk directly to consultants. In its presentation the WHC should point out that the top five priorities for the Unified Plan involve the issue of demolition delay. The consultants are the same group who developed the Comprehensive Plan of 2007 and who recommended a demolition review bylaw. Teixeira will contact the consultant to arrange a meeting with WHC.
5. Wellesley Historical Society: Kathleen Fahey requested a letter of support from WHC to ask CPC for \$20,400 to hire a contract archivist for the next fiscal year to continue to work on archiving materials. The WHS has no outstanding funds. It was **moved** by Robertson, **seconded** by Fergusson and **passed unanimously** to write a letter of support.
6. CPC Projects: Maitin, WHC representative to CPC, discussed WHC requests for funding. After discussion, it was agreed that the WHC will withdraw its applications for CPC funding for the residential property and commercial/municipal property projects, instead using the existing CPC funding obtained in 2010 for these projects. The WHC will also reduce its request for plaque research funding from \$40,000 to \$20,000 and use a portion of the existing CPC funding for the plaque program for research purposes.
7. House Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for 2 properties: 43 Colburn Road, and 416 Linden Street. After discussion it was moved by Teixeira, seconded by Grant, and passed unanimously to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of both residences.
8. Proposed Dr. Joseph Murray Plaque: Kit Bowry and Linda Kenerson have proposed a plaque to honor Dr. Murray on the grounds of Town Hall. Dr. Murray performed the first successful human kidney transplant on December 23, 1954 and won the Nobel Prize in 1990. WHC will see the NRC proposal.
9. Veterans Memorial: Town Committee formed to address the Veterans War Memorial because there is concern that it is in disrepair WHC decided it was premature to vote on a proposal to repair the Memorial or replace it.

10. Bylaw Subcommittee Update: The Bylaw Subcommittee led a discussion on its recent presentation to the Planning Board. No vote was taken at that meeting. It was determined that staffing does not need to be in a budget. The Town Meeting Warrant will close at the end of December. It was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to authorize von Taube to submit the current text of the Bylaw for the Town Meeting Warrant.
11. Standish Road NCD Study Committee: Von Taube reported that the Committee has asked for an extension to finalize its report. It needs more time to collect additional signatures. After discussion, it was moved by Carley, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to extend the time to submit the Standish Road NCD report to January 2018.
12. Wellesley Hills Station: von Taube informed the WHC that funds received for the historic photos were paid directly to WHS to license photos hanging. The plaque for the Caffè Nero coffee shop in the Wellesley Hills station has passed the DRB and will be presented to ZBA in early January. Von Taube will request the approval of a special permit to deviate from the current specifications for sign size.
13. Town Hall Envelope Study: Dorin reported that the Study is focused on an entire renovation of Town Hall. The selectmen appreciate the importance of the building.
14. 135 Great Plain Avenue: von Taube will draft a Memorandum of Understanding that recognizes the Town's obligation for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the historic stone gates at the current entrance to the property at 135 Great Plain Avenue on Town-owned land.
15. House Plaque Research Contract: Dorin submitted research for the WHC plaque program totaling 38 properties and an invoice for \$3,868. Seventeen of the properties are Wellesley College Buildings. Dorin noted that a majority of Wellesley College properties are potential recipients of plaques, in particular the Cheever property and garage.
16. Beebe Plaque: Lueth is reaching out to Belclare developer Jordan Warshaw to discuss the completion of the plaque process.
17. Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding: Brown reported that the Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Project Committee will be voting on the preferred color for the signs to be used in the Wellesley Square and Wellesley Hills Square commercial districts. There will be a Town Hall sign and the image of Town Hall on other signs. DPW will maintain the signs.
18. HHU MPC Committee: Dorin provided an update on the recent meetings of the HHU Master Planning Committee. Specifically, the committee is still considering all possible options relating to Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham Elementary Schools: renovating the existing buildings, demolishing part or all of them, and/or closing the school(s). Von Taube and Dorin explained the historic significance of the original Hardy and Hunnewell school buildings. Only portions of Hardy and Hunnewell are historic. The Committee is considering whether it is possible to keep the original Hardy building. Von Taube suggested that WHC wait until January to contact the Committee.

19. Adjourn: It was **moved** by Carley, **seconded** by McNally, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rise Shepsle