

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2016

Present: members Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Grant Brown; Peter Fergusson; alternate members Robert Carley; Dwight Lueth; Emily Maitin; Joel Slocum; Diogo Teixeira; advisory member Joshua Dorin; guests Kevin Hanron and Wetlands Protection Committee member Peter Jones

1. McNally called the meeting to order at 7:10pm in the Kingsbury Room at the Wellesley Police Station. Given the absence of four full members, McNally designated Lueth, Maitin, Slocum, and Teixeira in place of Tad Heuer, Rise Shepsle, Helen Robertson, and Arvid von Taube, respectively.
2. Citizen Speak: Kevin Hanron, a direct abutter to the proposed subdivision at 135 Great Plain Avenue, presented several maps showing the proposed changes to the topography of the property, a feature of the site previously designated as historic by the WHC. In addition, Wetlands Protection Committee member Peter Jones explained how this could affect the property's wetlands. Discussion then ensued about how these changes may not be in compliance with the NRPD bylaw and what can be done to make the Planning Board aware of this. No action was needed by the WHC, as Hanron will be presenting these maps to the Planning Board at its next meeting on April 19th.
3. WHC Bylaw Subcommittee Progress Report: Dorin and Brown led a discussion on the recent work of the WHC Bylaw Subcommittee. This included running through the presentation that the subcommittee drafted to show to various Town Boards and organizations in order to receive comments and garner support for a demolition review bylaw. The subcommittee will continue to work over the next month to reach out to various Town boards and committees to schedule times at which to give this presentation.
4. New Business: The WHC discussed the status of scheduling a meeting for the WHC to update the Board of Selectmen on its recent activities, in part to advocate for the acquisition of staff for the WHC. It was agreed that the WHC Chair Tad Heuer should schedule such a meeting with the Board of Selectmen at the earliest available time.
5. Minutes: It was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Maitin, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as submitted of the WHC meeting of March 28, 2016.
6. Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend: Dorin reported on the discussions of the WHC's subcommittee formed in March to determine how the WHC should participate in the upcoming Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend. The subcommittee recommended four such activities: i) a walking tour of the history of the Wellesley College campus, ii) hosting open houses of four of the Town's historic buildings (Fells Branch Library/Hardy Elementary School; Town Hall; MLP Substation; Hills Branch Library), iii) participation in the parade, and iv) staffing a table at Hunnewell Field prior to the fireworks display at which the WHC can hand out literature and promote its plaque program. It was then **moved** by Maitin, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to approve these activities as proposed by the subcommittee. The subcommittee will work over the next month to finalize the details associated with WHC's involvement within each activity.
7. Cliff Road Reconstruction: Dorin informed the WHC that the Board of Public Works has announced that one of its upcoming projects over the next fiscal year is to conduct a study of the needs required in the future reconstruction of Cliff Road. After discussion of the historic features of Cliff Road, specifically the stone and ironwork in the vicinity of the underpass at Route 9 and the bridge over the MBTA railroad tracks, it was agreed that the WHC should draft a letter to the BPW requesting more information on the proposed study. It was agreed that the WHC would discuss this issue further at the next regular WHC meeting.

8. 24 Linden Street: There was no new information on the proposed demolition of the historic house at 24 Linden Street.
9. WHC Inventory of Historic Buildings and Structures: The WHC agreed to postpone discussion of the development of its inventory of historic buildings and structures until a later date.
10. Next Meeting: The next WHC meeting will be on April 21st at a location to be determined for the evaluation and possible acceptance of bids for the WHC plaque research RFP.
11. Adjourn: It was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Teixeira, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin