

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 10, 2016

Present: members Tad Heuer, Chairman; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chairman; Grant Brown; Peter Fergusson; Rise Shepsle; Arvid von Taube; alternate members Robert Carley; Dwight Lueth; David Wright; advisory member Joshua Dorin

1. Heuer called the meeting to order at 7:08pm in the Juliani Room at Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of one full member, Heuer designated Carley in place of Helen Robertson.
2. Citizen Speak: No citizens present chose to speak on matters not on the agenda.
3. New Business: Heuer informed the WHC that the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant is moving forward with plans to restore the historic MLP substation using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. No action was needed by the WHC.
4. Minutes: It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of April 21, 2016.
5. WHC Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for two houses: 14 Dover Road and 4 Solon Street. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of the aforementioned properties.
6. WHC Bylaw Subcommittee Progress Report: Brown and Dorin led a discussion on the recent work of the WHC Bylaw Subcommittee. This included running through an updated version of 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. After discussion, it was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by von Taube, and **passed unanimously** to approve the presentation as amended and authorize the subcommittee to meet with the following six boards and non-profit organizations: Historic District Commission, Denton Road NCD Commission, Natural Resources Commission, Sustainable Energy Committee, Wellesley Historical Society, and Wellesley Conservation Council. The WHC then gave the subcommittee a note of commendation for the work it has accomplished thus far.
7. Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend: Dorin reported on the work of the WHC's subcommittee formed in March to determine and develop the activities in which the WHC would participate in the upcoming Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend. Dorin then provided drafts of handouts on the histories of each of the four historic buildings that will be open to the public: Town Hall, MLP substation, Hills Branch Library, and Fells Branch Library. After discussion, it was **moved** by Fergusson, **seconded** by Brown, and **passed unanimously** to approve the historic building tour handouts as amended. Brown then provided a draft of an informational handout on the WHC. After discussion, it was **moved** by von Taube, **seconded** by Brown, and **passed unanimously** to approve the informational handout as amended.
8. WHC Vacancies: Heuer informed the WHC that both he and Wright will be stepping down from the board at the end of June. Those members interested in serving as chair should contact Heuer.
9. Cliff Road Reconstruction: It was agreed to postpone drafting and sending a letter to the DPW regarding the upcoming study on the reconstruction of Cliff Road as discussed at the WHC meeting on April 14th until a later date.
10. Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Committee: Heuer informed the WHC that the Planning Board has created a committee to study and develop wayfinding within Wellesley Square. Given the

historic character of this commercial district, the Planning Board is looking for input from the WHC. Any WHC member interested in serving on this committee should contact Heuer.

11. Wellesley Hills Railroad Station: von Taube informed the WHC that the Board of Selectmen recently gave the necessary approval to new tenant Caffe Nero for its proposed renovation of the historic Wellesley Hills Railroad Station. It is therefore expected that a building permit should be issued soon. von Taube will reach out to project manager Bruce Kidder for more details.
12. Town Hall Envelope Study: Given that WHC representative to the Town Hall Envelope Study Committee Michael Racette was not present, it was agreed to postpone discussion on this issue until the next WHC meeting.
13. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Dorin led a discussion on the status of the proposed 135 Great Plain Avenue subdivision. It was then **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Shepsle, and **passed unanimously** to authorize Dorin to draft a letter to the Planning Board expressing the WHC's concerns regarding the proposed subdivision to be edited and sent by Heuer prior to the May 16th Planning Board hearing.
14. 24 Linden Street: There was no new information on the anticipated demolition of the historic house at 24 Linden Street.
15. WHC Plaque Research Contract: Heuer is currently working with the Financial Department to develop a contract for the accepted bidder for the plaque research RFP.
16. Beebe Cottage: Wright updated the WHC on his efforts to contact Belclare developer Jordan Warshaw regarding two unfinished components of the project relating to the Beebe Cottage: (i) the plaque to be installed at the former site of the Beebe House and (ii) whether shutters would be installed on the front façade of the Beebe Cottage. According to recent communication with Warshaw, the lack of shutters was a recent modification made by Warshaw and the project's architect. Wright will continue to reach out to Warshaw to request that shutters be installed in consideration of the fact that they were a key component of the appearance of the Beebe House. He will also provide more information to Warshaw on proposed text for the plaque.
17. Adjourn: It was **moved** by McNally, **seconded** by Fergusson, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Dorin