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DARTMOUTH TOWN CLERK

DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes

March 3, 2014

Present: Peggy Latimer, Judy Lund, Bev King, Bob Harding, Bob Smith, Damon May, Philip Baker

Absent: Joseph Ingoldsby, Susan Ertelt

Also present: David Cressman, Tom (Red) Yena, Donald Plant

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:03

Appointment of a secretary: Judy will take minutes

Russell Garrison: National Register nomination: David Cressman visiting to discuss the Preservation Restriction (PR). He made a disclaimer that he is not an attorney, so he goes on the recommendations of the town attorney. Y and Stone Barn are not town facilities. Discussion of the Stone Barn Project and lack of PR to date.

Town-owned property is a different case from the Y and the Stone Barn, which are privately owned properties. The attorney's concern is that the awarding of the PR for Russell Garrison, a town-owned property, is a contractual issue. The town would be paying a non-profit to take an interest in town land, at the same time that it is paying the non-profit to do this. That could be construed as a conflict of interest on the part of the town. It is the position of town attorney that the non-profit should apply on its own for the funding for the PR. Discussion. In the end, the situation will be the same, that DHPT will handle the PR. In the future, PRs for town-owned buildings should be handled this way, that the DHPH can hold the restriction and monitor it, but they must apply for the funding separately. The intention of the attorney is to separate the funding from the restriction itself.

There were questions about why this was not done for the RM School. David, thinks that it went back to Town Meeting. He will research the granting of the RM Schoolhouse PR and get the information back to us. Michael Steinitz has been asked if Mass Historical Commission could hold that preservation agreement, but has not yet replied.

Review and Approval of Minutes for meeting of January 6, 2014; no Feb meeting. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

CPC update: Peggy reported that the Apponegansett Meetinghouse roof is only historical project up this cycle. State has approved. CPC will hold a public hearing tomorrow night for all applications for this cycle.

Buddy Baker Smith's award: Judy, Peggy, and several CPC members went to the State House for the ceremony.

Russells Mills Library Update: Bob Smith reported that pipes burst; the town has been looking into insulation improvements to prevent this happening again. Town is looking into pumping in insulation, getting a rebate for energy conservation. Some interior insulation was added between floors probably when it was a library. Tests show that heat loss for the first floor is great. The town is also looking at upgrade of electrical service at town expense. DHAS will hold an election of new officers next month.

Stone Barn Report: Sign Preservation Restriction: Nothing new. Judy asked Buddy Baker-Smith

to contact Mass Audubon and remind them that this PR is part of their contract.

TTL update: Judy reported that another batch of forms came this week, and that ttl says there are about 7 more to end this cycle that should come this week. Then this phase will be finished, and we anticipate a final invoice then. Peggy would like to have the remaining invoices from ttl for our April Meeting. Judy discussed with ttl the possibility of doing histories on some forms done by Richard Casella that are missing histories. Ttl said they could do about 2 for 1 since the rest of the forms are complete. Peggy and Judy will meet before the next meeting to consider which forms should be done.

Plaque program: See Susan' report.<<?? Peggy has concerns about placement of the plaques to see if the town, namely fire and police, has any input. Also zoning board because of approval of signs. Peggy also made suggestions for additions to the form. We will see the application before it is launched. When this is launched, the improved form Bs on line should be launched. We need to check to see what is on the web and what is not.

Akin House: no report. Dartmouth 350 schedule shows they have plans for the summer.

Dartmouth 350: Activities are growing by the day. See the agenda on line.

Exterior of Buildings: bylaw to encourage care: Bob Smith was thinking of creating guidelines for recommendations to persons thinking to replace sidings and windows, something simple to encourage appropriate replacements. He and Damon will work on it.

Open Space and Recreation committee: Bev said that there was nothing to report. Public meeting was held, only one person came.

Use of photographs: Establishment of a policy. Yes, we need a policy. Not done yet.

Light fixtures for Russells Mills Historic District: Bob Smith, a village resident, received a letter today that there will be a hearing on March 28 [note: he later corrected the date: March 18] in Town Hall on installation of new streetlights. Bob will keep us posted. Peggy suggested that we send Michael Woyciechowski a resolution that the town do nothing since there was no electricity in Russells Mills until 1930. The lamps that are recommended are faux historic, and inappropriate.

Bob Harding made a resolution:

that the Historical Commission resolves that it would be inappropriate to install "faux historic replica" lighting to the village, since the village did not have electricity until 1930. The proposed light fixtures are totally out of character.

Discussion. Lights are modern technology, can't be historically significant.

Voted unanimously. Judy will send a letter to the Historic District Commission noting this vote that should be read at the public hearing.

Republication of town history pamphlet Voted to forget that idea. It would need considerable editing to correct the errors, and would not add much, nor be of much interest.

New Business:

Scenic roads: Bob Smith questioned the process of identifying "Scenic Roads." Recommended he see Donald Perry. He is concerned about RM Road through the village.

Scanning old form Bs. Need a volunteer to scan the old forms. No one volunteered.

Info on Demo review bylaw at Building Dept office: We encouraged them to put the one-page synopsis of the bylaw under glass at the building department window. Judy will check to see if it has been put under glass. Philip thinks it is. Bob Smith noted that with the last bill (water or tax) there was added info. This reinforces the idea that we could put demo info into the real estate tax bills. Philip suggested that we put copies out at town meeting, a good and simple idea, though Peggy pointed out that it wouldn't reach all property owners.

Prospect Hill Preserve Development: Plan came before the meeting that was snowed out. Judy

reviewed it and saw no impact on anything historical.

Cell Tower, 300 Gulf Road: On Gulf Hill property of Concordia Inc.: This idea met with resistance in the Commission because it is part of the historic Gulf Hill Farm, a National Register eligible area. Peggy requests that Judy reply to Brona Simon of the Mass Historical Commission, also notify building department and the Y that this is happening.

DOT signs on Route 195: signs will be installed that tell time to travel the distance. No significant impact.

Smith Mills Book: Bob Harding explained the project he and Bob Carney will do. Bob Carney has many old photographs of the village. Judy cautioned that they not publish too many copies. They might publish the book as a charitable venture to support a North Dartmouth cause. More info to come.

Tom Yena came to report on his property and the cemetery on his property at 1216 North Hixville Road. Yena wants to preserve the cemetery and be buried there. Mr. Potter suggests that part of the wall be removed to allow entrance of hole digging equipment. Yena proposed a separate gate to preserve the old gate. He is looking for approval. Bob French has offered to rebuild the walls just as they are. Peggy suggested we see a plan. Put you on agenda for next month.

A resolution was made, seconded, and voted unanimously: That he be allowed to restore the wall. Judy will send it this info to Tim Lancaster, of the Parks Dept., who had requested that Mr. Yena consult with DHC.

ADJOURN: 8:06 pm

Next Meeting: April 7, 2014