

Minutes: April 20, 2016

Present: Robert C. (Terry) Vose, Chair, R. Tag Carpenter, Vice-Chair, David Amory, Mark Barry, Molly Curtin, and Arthur Evans constituting a quorum. Nicole Walters was absent.

Note: the numbering below is chronological and may not correspond to agenda item numbering

Chairman Vose called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

1. Open Forum. Judi Vose spoke on behalf of Sustainable Duxbury's support and recognition of the connection of Olga Huckins, former owner of 287 Powder Point Ave., to Rachael Carson's book *Silent Spring*, memorialized on a monument behind the high school to Huckins and Carson.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Demolition Applications:

a. 287 Powder Point Avenue - ca. 1927 *Partial demolition; relocation of main house.* Mr. Vose, owner of an abutting property, recused himself from the meeting and Mr. Carpenter assumed the chair. A summary of the April 6 public hearing was presented, and Peter Smith of Campbell & Smith Architects, Inc. provided a recap of efforts made to date to save the property from demolition. Mr. Amory read a brief article from the journal *Hortus* (summer 2011) with the letter from Olga Huckins, former owner of the property, to Rachel Carson detailing the alarming devastation wreaked by aerial DDT on her two-acre garden sanctuary, which sparked the publication of *Silent Spring* and the birth of the environmental movement in America. He noted that the existing placement of the house on the site is an important part of its historical significance that would be lost were the building to be relocated. After a lengthy debate it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that although this house is being relocated, it is not being demolished so a delay should not apply in this case and a building permit should be issued. Commission members remained concerned about the general issue of alteration of sites on which historic properties are situated, feeling this needs to be considered as well as renovation and restoration of a house.

b. 352 Marshall St. - ca. 1920. *Renovation.* It was agreed after discussion that because the proposed renovation is not substantial the demolition bylaw does not apply in this case and there was no need for the owner to submit an Application for Structure Demolition Permit.

c. 151 Gurnet Road - ca. 1940. *Complete Demolition.* Building Permit Application received April 15; Structure Demolition Application not provided. Walk-around to be scheduled; discussion deferred to the next DHC meeting.

d. 357 West Street - ca. 1800 Complete Demolition. Building Permit Application received April 15; Structure Demolition Application not provided. Walk-around to be scheduled; discussion deferred to the next DHC meeting.

e. 31 Summer St. - ca. 1825/1859. Partial Demolition/Renovation. Building Permit Application stamped April 20; Structure Demolition Application not provided. Walk-around to be scheduled; discussion deferred to the next DHC meeting.

4. Demolition Delays in Effect

a. 195 Standish Street. House is being prepared for relocation to 279 Standish Street in the near future.

5. Rules and Regulations for the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The handout prepared by Messrs. Amory and Barry and distributed at the April 6 meeting was the subject of a wide ranging and lengthy discussion of issues related to the bylaw that included but was not limited to consideration of the criteria applied in rescinding demolition delays, clarification of procedures to be followed in the application of the present and proposed by law, and the need to simplify the whole application process. Mr. Carpenter had in mind but not in hand a revised form for documenting this that that he will distribute and submit for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Local Historic District Update. Mr. Vose reported that ten properties in the general area of Surplus and Washington Streets were "volunteered" for new historic districts at the April meeting of the Local Historic District Commission. In addition, the board of the DRHS voted to create a local historic district on Powder Point by "volunteering" the King Caesar House. All "volunteered" properties must still be voted on at Town Meeting.

7. At Risk Properties. Once again, the need to compile a list of properties considered to be "at risk" for possible demolition was discussed but no action was taken.

8. New Business. Mr. Vose read from a letter dated February 26, 2016 from Philip Bergen, Production Planner at the Massachusetts Historical Commission to Wendy Frontiero regarding materials she had submitted about the potential eligibility of the Cove Street area (DUX.F) for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The MHC's view was favorable, and encouraged Ms. Frontiero and the DHC to proceed with the National Register nomination.

9. Adjournment. Unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:25 PM.

New Materials Received:

1. Building Permit Application stamped 04/14/16 for alteration to 352 Marshall St.
2. Building Permit Application stamped 04/20/16 for alteration to 31 Summer St.
3. Building Permit Application stamped 04/15/16 for demolition of 151 Gurnet Rd.
4. Building Permit Application stamped 04/19/16 for demolition of 357 West St.
5. Letter dated 02/26/2016 from Philip Bergen to Wendy Frontiero

Minutes prepared and submitted by Arthur B. Evans, Clerk