

DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes: September 30, 2015

Present: Robert C. (Terry) Vose, Chair, R. Tag Carpenter, Vice-Chair, David Amory, Mark Barry, Arthur Evans, Chris Tice, Nicole Walters, constituting a quorum

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

Chairman Vose called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.¶ **Open Forum.** Theresa Cadorette, a resident in the Alden Heights neighborhood, offered an overview of the area and history of housing development in it.

2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the meetings of September 3, 2015 and September 16, 2015 were approved as written.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** The procedures to follow for processing bills, including reimbursement to Commission members for personal expenses in carrying out the DHC's work, were discussed. Mr. Vose will obtain forms for processing expenses from Town Hall.

4. **Demolition Applications.**

a. 14 Winthrop Avenue.- *Complete Demolition, ca. 1930?* The present owner and an abutter were present. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously that this was not a regulated structure and not subject to the provisions of the demolition bylaw.

b. 612 Washington St. -*Partial Demolition, ca. 1801.* An incomplete application was received 9/30/2015, lacking a cover letter, deeds, and photos. A walk-around of the property needs to be scheduled. The matter was tabled pending receipt of a complete application.

Note: Commissioner Amory suggested that applicants be requested to provide demolition plans of their projects rather than architectural plans for proposed renovations, which do not apply to the work of the DHC.

5. **Public Outreach.**

a. The "Welcome to Your New Old Home" brochure, prepared in 2001, was distributed to members and discussed. It was generally agreed this needs substantial revision, possibly with the involvement of a professional writer. The brochure also needs wider distribution, especially among real estate agents. Mr. Evans will contact the MHC for samples of similar brochures from other communities and a general update of references.

b. Press Release to Duxbury Clipper. The editorial by David Mittel in the 9/30/2015 edition of the paper calling attention to the coming public hearings for the proposed demolitions at 38 Ocean Ave. and 195 Standish St. made a press release about these properties unnecessary.

c. **Public Forums.** Various ways to increase public awareness about the need for the preservation of historic homes in the town were discussed. These included:

- A lecture or lectures on historic preservation for the general public;
- Interview owners of homes that have been restored and write about their experience with the restoration process;
- An article or press release in the Clipper about the increasing number of applications for demolition the DHC is asked to consider;
- A series of occasional articles in the Clipper about the various historic neighborhoods, such as the Ridge, and their importance in the Town's history.

It was agreed that a short term priority should be an article on the increasing number of demolitions currently taking place.

6. **Demolition Delay Bylaw.** Commissioner Amory distributed the draft of a "Streamline DHC Bylaw" he had prepared that outlined the demolition permit application process and suggested ways this might be improved. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that the notice of initial determination of a proposed demolition be brought to the attention of the general public through a notice in the Clipper. This would be informational only and not a formal notice. Further discussion of a revision to the bylaw was postponed until the next meeting.

7. **Practices/Duty Assignments.** The need for help with secretarial chores, such as the preparation of public hearing notifications, filing of closed applications, posting meetings, etc. was discussed. A person could be full or part-time, and shared with other commissions, notably the Local Historic District Commission. Mr. Vose will discuss the feasibility of this with John Madden, Town Treasurer. Members were asked to send suggestions for work that could be done by such a person to Mr. Vose.

8. **Local Historic District Committee.** This group sponsored an outreach coffee on September 26 for the general public to present its proposed new Local Historic District Bylaw. Approx. 15 persons attended.

9. **New Business.** Mr. Vose will check the deadline for submission of the bylaw revision.

10. **Adjournment.** It was moved and seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur B. Evans, Acting Clerk

APPROVED OCTOBER 21, 2015