

## **DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes: November 19, 2014**

**Present:** members Robert C. (Terry) Vose, R. Tag Carpenter, Robb D'Ambruoso, Arthur Evans, Leslie Lawrence, and Nicole Walters, constituting a quorum. Chris Tice was absent.

*Note: numbering below is chronological, and does not necessarily correspond to agenda-item numbering.*

Mr. Vose called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1. Open Forum. Chm. Vose noted that the Commission has been assessed the \$130 cost of the sign language specialist who attended hearing-impaired applicant Andrew Stout at his hearing at the September 17, 2014 meeting. Mr. Vose also noted The National Register of Historic Places application Myles Standish Burial Ground nomination has been accepted, and is pending a determination. Mr. Vose also noted that external town legal counsel (Anderson & Kreiger LLP) confirmed that the owner of a property does not need to attend a hearing.
2. Review of Prior Minutes. Minutes for the June 9, 2014, September 17, 2014, and October 22, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Determinations
  - a. 11 Sagamore Road (Complete Demolition, 1926). Following a robust discussion, upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission voted 5-1 in favor of imposing a 6-month demolition delay. Although the structure did not necessarily “mesh” with the current neighborhood, the majority of the Commission was of the opinion that the very fact that it was the only structure of that style of construction in the neighborhood (Georgian Colonial) was evidence of its historical merit.
  - b. 49 Soule Ave. (Complete Demolition, 1757). Upon a motion made and duly seconded, in light of the clear historical significance of the property, the Commission unanimously voted to impose a 6-month demolition delay. Mr. Carpenter voiced his disappointment with the property owners’ lack of engagement in the process (they did not attend the hearing, for example) and his frustration with the Commission’s inability to take more effective action to preserve a structure so central to the Commission’s mission.
4. Demolition Applications
  - a. 184 Standish St. (Complete Demolition, 1800). Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission unanimously determined not to consider the application, due to the same not having been made by the current owner.
  - b. 259 King Caesar Road (Complete Demolition, 1900). Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission unanimously deemed the structure to be of historical significance within the parameters of the demolition delay by-law and determined to require a hearing.
5. Criteria for Determining Historic Significance. Discussion ensued, including Mr. Evans’ suggestion for inviting a Mass. Historical Commission representative to address the Commission and Mr. Carpenter’s suggestion that more objective criteria be developed.

6. Scheduling Walk-Arounds and Application Reviews. Discussion deferred.
7. Revisions to Demolition Delay Bylaw– due December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Carpenter noted that the ZBRC would need to review any suggested revisions prior to submitting a warrant for the town meeting, given that the demolition delay bylaw is part (Section 609) of the Town of Duxbury Zoning Bylaws. The Commission discussed options such as lengthening the demolition delay period to twelve months, increasing the review period preceding a public hearing from its current 20 business days, and clearly requiring the owner of record to be the demolition applicant.
8. List of Infractions. Discussion deferred.
9. Plymouth 400th Anniversary Preparations. Messrs. Carpenter and Vose noted that they have both expressed interest in serving on the Duxbury committee associated with Plymouth’s 400th Anniversary.
10. Community Preservation Committee – Status Update. Brief discussion.
  - a. Discussion of role of CPC Liaison
  - b. Commissioner Lawrence asserts that the Liaison should not vote a CPC article without reviewing the issue with the Commission before hand and voting based on a poll of the members.
  - c. Commissioner Carpenter counter-argues that the Liaison's role is informative, not representative.
  - d. The question of getting a legal opinion on this was raised but no action was taken
  - e. Brief review of articles. The invoice for Historic Archive hardware came in.
11. National Register Shipbuilders District – Status Update - No update
12. Local Historic District – Status Update. Working on bylaw revisions.
13. Duxbury Online Historic Archives – Status Update. Scanner and disk drive ordered.
14. New Business. No new items
15. The next meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m. (regular meeting).
  - a. Public hearing on 259 King Caesar Road to be held
16. The meeting was adjourned upon a motion, seconded and unanimously approved, at 9:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Robb D’Ambruoso, Clerk.

**APPROVED December 17, 2014**