

Duxbury Historical Commission

Minutes: April 21, 2011

Present: Norman Tucker, Terry Vose, Tag Carpenter, Lee Adams, Lois McKeown

Absent: Laura Doherty and Jim Nihan –ex officio

Guest: John Baldwin (180 High Street)

I The meeting was called to order: 7:02 PM

Agreed to change the order of the agenda

II Report from the “180 High Street Group”:

John Baldwin reported recent activities of the group and progress on the Demolition Delay:

There have been 2 recent “Foodies” meetings of the group. John, Sam Davenport and Patrick Browne (DRHS) attended. Norman Tucker attended one meeting. There were some meetings at 180 High St. Many emails were sent among the group. The Historical Society provided the following names:

John Ditweiler from Norwell does restoration work and saves such things as paneling and flooring. He said the place is a wreck

Richard Mecke, owner of a NH company which was once located in Lakeville MA. He does not have a client interested in buying the house lot. He stated that some doors and hardware are original and some are not. He owns 40 acres in Middleboro, to be residentially developed. He would be willing to take the house down, number everything and store it in a tractor-trailer. He could reconstruct it on the Middleboro land. He handles 3 to 4 million dollar restorations.

The 6-month Demolition Delay runs out in June. John emphasized that he was trying to do what was the Commission recommended, and hoped Richard wanted to dismantle the house before the Delay expired.

We asked if we could take photographs before the house is removed. John said he thought the owner would not be very cooperative, as he is quite disturbed at the delay order, but that he would see what he could do.

III Open Forum:

Regarding the 375th celebration of the founding of Duxbury, we think the Town Manager may request participation and contributions from a variety of groups including the Historical Commission. Do we think we would like to do something?

We have \$117.41 in our budget. It will be used to make hard copies of Wendy's 2 disks for the Library and the Drew archives as well as a copy for us to be stored in a notebook. We will also purchase hanging files for our new file cabinets.

IV The minutes of March 26, 2011 were unanimously approved as corrected. The correction was to remove "attached" as there was no attachment to the minutes.

V Report on any Commission action on 24 Standish St.:

Tony Kelso will talk to Emmett Sheehan to see what he can do to persuade Emmett to cooperate with the Committee's recommendations. Emmett's wife Susanna spoke with Tony and confirmed that Tony and Emmett will talk. The Delay will expire in June.

VI Progress on Historical Commission internship:

There will be no internship this year. Lee reported that we would give an early notification that we are interested in having a high school senior be an intern for the Commission as part of the Senior Project requirement.

VII Up-date on Local Historic District:

There is no up-date. A committee is being formed. We will eventually get up-dates from that committee.

VIII Commission efforts regarding National Register Nominations:

The Community Preservation Committee inquired about the Old Town Hall and National Register listing because of a CPA grant for restoration. The existing inventory form needs updating and we will add it to the list for Wendy.

We would also like to see the Standish Cemetery in this Register. We could request funding from the CPC for this.

IX Historical Commission on Town website:

We do not know whose responsibility it is to post on committee's website information. Leslie will try to find out who posts.

We would like to include an updated member list, our Mission Statement, a History of Duxbury, Committee Minutes, and an updated Demolition Application and process.

X Any update from the Massachusetts Historical Commission on the review of the 685 Washington Street pier project.

There is no news or update.

XI Historical Property Survey, part 2

Norman asked for a full and current list of date boarded houses from the DRHS and Edward Connors' 2000 list and crossed checked them against a list of inventoried homes. Norman provided a list, attached. of 49 properties that are date boarded by the DHS, are not in the Shipbuilder's District, and are not inventoried. We would like to add Old Town Hall and perhaps 24 Standish St. to that list. This list will be given to Wendy. Wendy's contract with the Town has been executed. We will see if Wendy can come on May 6th to take a drive by of these properties. Norman, Terry and Leslie will accompany the tour. Leslie volunteered to route the drive-by tour.

XII Any new requests for Demolition from Inspectional Services, reports on action and any voting:

18 Puritan Road: The Committee unanimously voted to approve the request as presented, It will be noted that if there are any changes to the application, that the Committee be notified.

31 Ship Yard Lane: Inspectional Services received an application. The house is not date boarded or inventoried. A deed of 1935 is the first mention of a structure on the land.

We deemed the application as incomplete for the following reasons: There are no original photos, 7 applications are required and we received 1, we request the plan of 1893 showing what was then known as the "Rich" property. We will review the application when we receive a complete one.

XIII Date of next meeting: May 19, 2011

XIV The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Lawrence
For Laura Doherty, secretary