

## **DUXBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

### **Minutes: November 18, 2010**

Present: Laura Doherty, Norman Tucker, Lee Adams, Terry Vose, Lois Mc Keown, and Leslie Lawrence, Jim Nihan, ex officio

Public Hearing to review the application of Raymond and Susan MacFarlane for the demolition of structures located at 180 High Street.

- Site visits by commission members on October 17 and November 10
- Determined by DHC that the application meets 3 out of 4 criteria of town by-law that define a regulated building making it necessary for a public meeting on the application; also included in Duxbury Survey of Historic Structures
- John Baldwin, who plans to develop the property and who noted that he, also, is a High Street resident, said that the subdivision into three lots has been approved by the Planning Board. He feels that the house and outbuildings are in total disrepair and plans to take the house down piece by piece and the same with the barn. He does not believe it's possible to move the house to another location on the property due to its bad condition.
- Dennis Murphy, 290 High Street, questioned which buildings were being talked about, that what was being proposed was not consistent with the plans presented and approved by the planning board – that the house (date boarded 1767) was not included in those plans. He emphasized the importance of the history of the house, efforts to maintain the streetscape in that area and recommended the DHC issue a finding that the home is of historical significance and try to find someone to move it, renovate or preserve it in some capacity.
- Jim Pye, attorney for the MacFarlane's and a realtor, reported that he had tried to sell the property with considerable effort from 2005 – 2008 but no buyer was found.
- Laurie Hall, 175 Abrams Hill Road suggested offering the property to the town.
- John Baldwin questioned whether the CPC would want to spend money on such a structure.
- Sam Davenport, 14 Summer Street, suggested that he and the historical society of which he is a member, is interested in what happens to the house, that perhaps there is a possibility of working with the developer. He suggested moving the house stressing its importance – maybe it has not been cared for but it is still intact and rare
- John Baldwin replied that he would meet with Mr. Davenport and anyone else.
- The board will make a decision at a meeting to be held in a minimum of ten days.
- Emmett Sheehan spoke on his application for a complete demolition of a house and barn at 24 Standish Street. The application was deemed complete by DHC. A site visit was made on November 17 by all DHC members. The historical relevance of the house and part of the barn as well as the Cushing name, the visual importance of the current streetscape in that area and the existence of a lean-to which is unusual and rare were discussed as well. As a result, the application meets 3 of the criteria of the town by-law that defines a regulated building making it necessary for a public meeting on the application.

Regarding Tarkiln, Emmett reported that the work is 99% complete but there are still some handicap accessibility issues.

Approved minutes for meetings of October 21.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 PM, December 16, at which a public hearing will be held on the application for demolition at 24 Standish Street and a determination will be made by the commission regarding the application for demolition at 180 High Street, (the public hearing on which was held on November 18).

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Doherty, Clerk