



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

MEMBERS

MARY DECHILLO, CHAIR
JER JURMA, VICE CHAIR
SYLVIA BELKIN, CLERK
DANA ANDERSON
WARREN SAWYER

EX OFFICIO

S. PETER KANE, TOWN PLANNER

MAY 16, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 7:03-8:00pm

Location: Swampscott Library, Baldwin Room

Members Present: Mary DeChillo, Sylvia Belkin, Warren Sawyer, Jer Jurma, Dana Anderson, P. Kane (Town Liaison)

AGENDAS & MINUTES

Minutes of the May 9th meeting approved. Mary suggested agenda be posted as per items suggested to her up to three (3) days prior to a meeting. Pete will post meetings.

ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS

Press Contact – Sylvia will send committee announcements to the press, after releases are approved by all members.

MHC Liaison – Pete will serve as the liaison to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Chris Skelly will be unable to attend a meeting of the Swampscott committee until mid-June.

OPEN MEETING & OPEN RECORDS LAW

Mary stressed that transparency is a must in order that Open Meeting Laws be complied with and that members must be aware of propriety. Regarding email: no deliberation, no voting. Email is appropriate for one-way businesses, and all documents are public documents. Closed sessions are possible only under appropriate law. Example: a meeting to decide if someone who missed three (3) meetings should be dismissed. Pete will email committee members a clarification of when closed sessions are appropriate.

REVIEW OF MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION BOOKLET

Discussion followed regarding the importance of outreach to town Boards: ZBA, Selectmen, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Finance Committee. It is imperative that these Boards and that citizens of the town understand the agenda and objectives of the Local Historic District Committee so that there is little or no misunderstanding or surprise in this regard.

Jer Jurma suggests that we put out a call for people who have specific talents/desire to help, i.e. specialist in survey compilation, public relations, etc.; that we set up a kiosk in the library or some other physical space to keep citizens abreast of our activities (what we are trying to accomplish). Pete mentioned the Harbor Festival, the train station.

Jer raised the question of Humphrey Street zoning issues. He questioned whether the town would want or need a mechanism stronger than the historic district (for appropriate design, etc.).

Dana emphasized that the Committee must capture a region of the town to be preserved and that we think about the long-term character we are trying to maintain.

Jer asked if the Mass. Historical Commission could demonstrate what other towns have accomplished in putting together historic districts where there was a similar loss of historic buildings over the years.

NEW BUSINESS

Warren Sawyer expressed concern that his business and Foundation housed at 491 Humphrey Street would be constructing an addition at the rear of the building within the next few weeks and that he did not want this action to be misconstrued as a conflict with the Committee's goals of maintaining Humphrey Street's architectural character. The committee members all agreed his concerns are unfounded because Humphrey Street is NOT a Local Historic District at this time and that we are in the earliest stages of our mission.

The Committee agreed to meet next at Town Hall on May 30 at 7:00pm at which time we will begin a walking tour of possible Local Historic District destinations and that members should submit ideas of where that tour should start to Chair DeChillo.

Meeting concluded at 8pm due to closing of the Library. Sawyer motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by DeChillo.

Minutes submitted by,
Sylvia Belkin - Clerk