

## Local Historic District Committee Meeting

### Minutes

August 15, 2012

Committee Members Present: Mary DeChillo, chair; Sylvia Belkin; Jer Jurma; Ed Moll; Dana Anderson

Others in Attendance: Pete Kane, Town Planner; Sarah Pruett, Outdoor Space Committee, Susan Post Munafo, Chair, Swampscott Historical Commission; Robert Strong, student intern; Glenn Kessler, Board of Selectman

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. at town hall conference room; Mary DeChillo served an awesome dessert to send intern Rob Strong off to the University of Michigan with appreciation and thanks for his contributions from all of us.

Glenn Kessler introduced himself as an ardent supporter of our mission. Discussion ensued regarding the differences between the mission and origins of the Swampscott Historical Commission, (members appointed by the town, under state jurisdiction); the Local Historic District Committee, and the Swampscott Historical Society (private). Glenn is also a member the Harbor Advisory Committee. He said that there is \$3.5 million available in monies....from who? For beautification? Question: could some of that money be used to repair municipal sea wall. Glenn will report back to us at our next meeting.

Discussion regarding the "Concept Boundary" that we are creating, as far up Humphrey Street to include the Gaga Gallery. If beyond this point, how far beyond? Where is the most realistic point to place a boundary, Dana inquired Dana suggests all of Humphrey Street. Of note, the auto repair building on Humphrey Street was originally built in the 1920's as a Packard Showroom!

Mary sparked a discussion about the "county streets off Paradise Road: Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Worcester, Hampshire, and Berkshire asking why we aren't paying more attention to these streets and was it possible to incorporate them into the LHD. It was suggested that we have signage for every district in town, i.e. the Beach Bluff District, the County District, etc.

At some point, Mary noted, we're going to have to decide what the boundaries are. When asked by the public what the boundaries are Mary said it's ok now to mention Humphrey Street and the Olmsted District as what we're focusing on.

Still discussing having a table at the Farmer's Market to acquaint townspeople with our mission. But we must present it to the FM Committee first. The FM will run through October 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee will be meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup> at town hall.

Dana thinks we should do 48 more inventories for the LHD we choose. He has photographs of each building on Humfrey Street, noting that Mass Coastal Resources has good data.

Ed Moll is putting together architectural education.

Jer, our mouthpiece, is working with Patch. Jer wants to get across the issues of stewardship and community and he is trying to get that message to townspeople. The feeling of neighborhood.

Mary is trying to get people who understand our mission and share our goals to become town meeting members. In 2013 there will certainly be vacancies to fill.

Sylvia presented the proposed draft of a questionnaire she would like to go out with the census in January, but in the meantime this questionnaire could be used at the Farmer's Market and at other well-attended town events. The questions spark questions from those being questioned, giving us a chance to inform and educate. Questionnaire is attached to these minutes. Please take some time and critique the questionnaire. Does it make sense? Does it ask what you think we need to know? Is it relevant? Don't spare Sylvia's feelings. Critique and comment!!!

Pete talked about the Cleveland, Ohio Historic District's management of homes installing solar panels and the fact that there are limitations to what a LHDC can deny. Our guidelines have to be inclusive and reasonable.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15. Next meeting *Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2011*

Minutes submitted by Sylvia Belkin, Secretary

**DRAFT of proposed Questionnaire to be mailed to all town Residents**

1. How long have you lived in Swampscott? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did you decide to live in Swampscott? \_\_\_beaches \_\_\_schools\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_small town feeling \_\_\_\_\_easy commute to Boston \_\_\_\_\_other

3. Do you think that Swampscott has historic character

\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

4. Do you think that the historic architecture that exists in Swampscott contributes to the character and desirability of living here?

\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_don't care

5. Do you believe that areas in Swampscott such as Humphrey Street and the Olmsted District are historically significant and should be preserved?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_don't care

6. Do you know that several buildings in Swampscott and the Olmsted District are listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_don't care

7. Do you know that listing on the National Register of Historic Places such as Town Hall and the Fish House does not protect a structure or district from demolition or alteration?

\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_don't care

8. Do you think that tear-downs, new construction, or incompatible exterior renovation can diminish the historic character of a neighborhood?

\_\_\_\_\_yes    \_\_\_\_\_no    \_\_\_\_\_don't care

9. Would you be in favor of the establishment of a Local Historic District in one or more historic areas of Swampscott to protect our heritage?

\_\_\_\_\_yes    \_\_\_\_\_no    \_\_\_\_\_don't care    \_\_\_\_\_tell me more

10. Do you know that a Local Historic District does not stop appropriate development and has absolutely no bearing on interior alterations?

\_\_\_\_\_yes    \_\_\_\_\_no    \_\_\_\_\_don't care

11. How can we provide you with more information about Local Historic Districts?

\_\_\_\_\_town website    \_\_\_\_\_neighborhood meetings    \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Patch/The Reporter    \_\_\_\_\_brochures available at the library

\_\_\_\_\_other