



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
ED MOLL

EX OFFICIO

S. PETER KANE, TOWN PLANNER

JANUARY 30, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 7:15

Location: Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

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

Others in Attendance: Justina Oliver (Historical Commission), Susan Munafo (Historical Commission), Glenn Kessler (Board of Selectmen), Pete Kane (Town Planner)

Meeting commenced at 7:15 pm in the First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall.

Minutes for the January 16th meeting approved after changing date on prior minutes to January 16 and correcting spelling of Jer Jurma's name.

Preliminary Study report was reviewed. We discussed the fact that the Local Historic District Commission, when formed, can in a sense reverse the effects of indiscriminate alterations to a building by restoring buildings closer to the original structure. This holds great promise for some altered buildings in the town. Ed Moll suggested that we refer to the Salem Historical Commission Guidelines notebook for more information on this topic.

Humphrey Street is one of the two areas that the Committee proposes to name as a district, and it was noted that Humphrey Street predates the Points, i.e. Little's Point, Lincoln House Point. We will have other areas in town like these, and possibly the County streets, to consider for historic districts. How many other areas of the town have notable properties? What about Atlantic Avenue and the Beach Bluff area?

Under the discussion of justification of our proposed boundaries (a section of the proposal our committee is required to submit), Ed Moll suggested that we might create a time lapse series of maps showing the town's growth, thus defining by growth and history.

There was a lot of discussion of whether we should include some of the houses on the water beyond the Fish House. Dana noted that it would guide the development of the waterfront area. Because it was felt by the committee that this could be a controversial issue, it was stressed that we need to inform and educate town residents who will listen and appreciate what it means to preserve the structures of a community like ours. So let's include the Blaney Beach area, some suggested. Jer suggested that we go back and look at this area before voting, and that was agreed.

There was lengthy discussion about Greenwood Avenue. Should the boundaries include the length and both sides of Greenwood? A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative that we should include “the west side of Greenwood Avenue as well as King Street.”

There was further discussion regarding three properties, including those on either side of and including 57 Greenwood. Jer moved that these properties be included in the Local Historic District. It was also moved that “the corner property at Rockland and Greenwood be added, thus that property would adhere to LHD rules, but not necessarily the rest of the street.” A proposal was made to include 57 Greenwood in the district because of its history (it was the home of the Phillips family and the first structure to be built on Greenwood Avenue) but to defer adding the houses on either side of it until the members of the committee have a chance to personally view these properties. This proposal was seconded and 57 Greenwood was voted to be included in the district.

We need a volunteer to write the Justification of Proposed Bylaw section – Susan Munafo offered to do so.

Pete has asked us to review the by-law in the report we are to submit to the state commission to determine what we want to add, omit or change. Pete also suggested that we include the “Purpose” section in red which is used in Provincetown. Under “Definitions,” Jer suggested that we should keep the first two stricken items and say “see zoning bylaw.” The committee also feels that 5 full time members and two alternatives should work.

What should we call the Humphrey Street district? Possibly the “Historic Town Center Historic District”? Any other thoughts on this?

Jer suggested that we need to think about properties at the gateway to Swampscott (Lynn line) which have NOT been included in the district at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05p. We will reconvene on Wednesday, February 6th at 7p.

Minutes submitted by
Sylvia Belkin, Secretary