

October 17, 2001 - Special Meeting of the Wellfleet Historical Commission (WHC)

FEB 20 2002

TOWN CLERK

A special meeting of the WHC was posted to review the situation of and requests for historical designation of The Colony on Chequessett Neck Road, Wellfleet, MA. 02667.

Paul Fox, chairman, called the special meeting to order at 4:05 PM with members, Richard Dickey, David Rego, and Eugene Cormier in attendance.

Review and discussions

The commission attendees reviewed/discussed the following correspondence relating to the request for historical designation of The Colony:

1. Copy of letter, dated September 10, 2001 from Massachusetts Historical Commission to MS. Eleanor Stefani of The Colony of Wellfleet, on Chequessett Neck Road re: applying for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Letter, dated October 3, 2001, from Ms. Eleanor Stefani of The Colony on Chequessett Neck Road re: bringing the attention of the WHC to The Colony which might be considered of "historic importance to the community" of Wellfleet, and that the demolition of one of the cottages and construction of a larger home could endanger the historic value of the entire complex.
3. Letter, dated October 9, 2001, from Eliot Paul Rothman, AIA, Chairman of Rothman Partners, Inc. to WHC re: in Support of Historic Preservation Designation for the Colony of Wellfleet, on Chequessett Neck Road.

The attendees also provided inputs, based upon their site visitations, and other research, which after significant discussion, resulted in a consensus that The Colony represented an integral part of the development of art and architecture in the town of Wellfleet. The Colony is a complex of Bauhaus design buildings developed by Ned Saltonstall, an architect and owner, in the mid 1940s. The Colony also provided one of the first art galleries in Wellfleet, which has recently become known as an "Art Gallery Town".

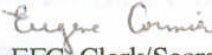
The attendees voted unanimously, to recommend that the Historic Commission work to apply for listing The Colony on the Historic Register

The issue, demolition of one of the cottages and construction of a larger home could endanger the historic value of the entire complex, identified in Ms. Stefani's October 3, 2001 letter, (#2 above) was addressed concurrent with the determination of the historical and architectural significance of The Colony. The attendees agreed that because of its overpowering location and integral part of the Colony layout, any demolition of the building, presently owned by Mrs. Harris, and formerly known as unit #10 of The Colony, would have a significant and adverse affect on the historical aspect as well as an intrusive effect on The Colony with the travel of large trucks and demolition equipment creating destruction of the carefully designed, narrow roadway that gently weaves its way through the Colony complex grounds.

The attendees voted to recommend delay of demolition and construction until the application for acceptance of The Colony on the Historic Register, and so notify the Building Inspector.

The special meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


EFC, Clerk/Secretary