

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Second Floor Conference Room, 141 Keyes Road

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Concord's Historical Commission held a public meeting in the Second Floor Conference Room at 141 Keyes Road, Concord starting at 7:00 P.M. Commission members Clair Gauthier, Andrew Koh, Diann Strausberg, Geoffrey Taylor and Electa Tritsch were present. Director Marcia Rasmussen was also present.

Chair Geoffrey Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Taylor asked if there was any additional items for the agenda and none were noted at this time. Discussion of 387 Sudbury Road, Wayfinding project for Concord Center, West Concord Junction Cultural District history project and a proposed schedule for historic preservation awards were items added to the agenda. The revised agenda was approved.

Freedom's Way National Historic Landmark Survey

Ms. Tritsch noted that the Historical Commission had received a survey from the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area requesting information about sites that have been under-represented such as the Robbins House, Brister's Hill and the Drinking Gourd project which has highlighted the abolitionist/African-American history in town; Women in the Arts such as Mary Abbott, the Concord Art Association, Louisa May Alcott and Margaret Fuller; and Native American sites such as Egg Rock and Clam Shell Bluff. Ms. Tritsch noted that the survey information was due by the end of March and asked Commission members to send information to her.

Archaeology Project Update

Mr. Koh reported that he has been working with the Barrett Farm farmers to identify additional archeological sites at the farm. He noted that there was a GIS course now available at Brandeis, which will help with plotting and recording information discovered from this project.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of conducting reconnaissance of the Camp Massachusetts site on former DOC/now Concord Housing Development Corporation land and the Gerow land/DOC agricultural fields north of Warner's Pond. Mr. Koh continues to work with Mr. Paul Macone to pull the requisite permits from Mass Historic.

Mr. Koh observed that the historic archeological sites in Concord that are in the MHC database should be a data layer on the Town's GIS, perhaps for employees only, in order to have the opportunity to preserve and protect in the event of development. He asked if it is possible to use funds from the Community Preservation Committee to fund development of GIS data layers by Brandeis archeology students.

Mr. Koh provided a demonstration of the 3D imaging camera that had been received. The Commission considered the various ways that the camera can be used to record proposed demolition projects. The Historical Commission (via the Department of Planning & Land Management) was reminded that the Town will need to pay an annual maintenance fee for the equipment to keep the programs up to date, and that there was currently funding still available in the Archaeology Project Account for that purpose.

Concord Academy Campus

Mr. Don Kingman, Facilities Manager from Concord Academy, attended the meeting to share information about the proposed expansion and renovation of Bradford Housing as compared to undertaking new construction. He noted that a letter to MHC from the Historical Commission was required as part of the school's financing for the project.

Ball-Benson House and Barn Update

Ms. Rasmussen reported that Preservation Specialist David Ottinger would take the summer to complete plans for the possible reconstruction of the Ball-Benson House and Barn with a report expected in the fall. Ms. Rasmussen shared the idea of working with a consultant to seek community input on potential uses for the Wheeler Harrington House and the Harrington Park property as one possible location for the Ball-Benson House and Barn.

Historic Preservation Awards program

Former Historical Commission member Annette Bagley attended the meeting to share her ideas about the Preservation Awards program. She recommended that the awards be given bi-annually (every two years), with invitations to nominate projects posted in September; a submission deadline in February of the following year with review of the submittals occurring through April. The recognition of projects would then occur in May with a planned event that celebrates the projects (perhaps conducted at the Concord Free Public Library). She suggested that additional funds may be needed (\$600 had been allocated for the first awards program) in the amount of \$1,000 to \$1,400 (includes \$400 for the event itself). The Commission felt it was a good idea to include a landscape preservation award in addition to the other architectural awards considered.

Historic House Marker Review

There were no new applications at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Members had received drafts of the February 2017 meeting minutes prior to the meeting and reviewed them at this time. Ms. Tritsch moved to approve the February minutes as written. Ms. Strausberg seconded the motion and ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Other Business

The Commission discussed the need to identify potential new members for the Historical Commission. Mr. Taylor offered to draft and circulate an item for the Concord Journal and website looking for anyone interested in Concord's history, particularly architects, landscape architects, planners, and attorneys. The Commission members suggested other

sources of potential members through the Concord Museum, the Old Manse, the Chamber of Commerce and the Concord Free Public Library.

Ms. Tritsch moved to adjourn. Ms. Gauthier seconded the motion and ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Rasmussen
Director of Planning & Land Management

Minutes Approved on: April 13, 2017