

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
First Floor Hearing 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 First

Floor Hearing Room at 141 Keyes Road, Concord starting at 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Diann Strausberg, Nancy Nelson, Melissa Saalfield, Claire Gauthier, Andrew Koh and Robert Gross

Staff: Heather Gill, Senior Planner

Others: Alice Kaufman, Select Board Liaison

Ms. Strausberg called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Demolition Review Public Hearing – 1075 Lowell Road

Ms. Gill stated that the applicant has requested a continuance to the meeting on April 25, 2019. Ms. Strausberg verified that the applicant had submitted the proper forms for the continuance.

Ms. Saalfield moved to continue the public hearing for 1075 Lowell Road to the meeting on April 25, 2019. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion and ALL OTHERS VOTED IN FAVOR. The motion passed (5-0).

Historical Commission Charge Amendments

Ms. Gill summarized the draft amendments to the charge. The Commission asked that “Consult with and” is added before “Make recommendations to” on charge item 10. Ms. Saalfield summarized the history of the oral history project by the library and said it is funded thru the town’s budget. Ms. Saalfield stated that she believed the Historical Commission used to play a role in this and would check with staff at Special Collections. The Commission would like to find out what their role and or oversight of this project used to be. The Commission expressed concerns about the future of the program.

Discussion: Goals for Upcoming Year

The Commission reviewed and discussed the list of goals from the Envision Concord Long Range Plan, and discussed other goals they would like to add to their list. Ms. Gill added a goal of updating the demo review property list, so that all properties are accurately listed. Ms. Gauthier suggested creating a master list if all historic structures, streets, landscapes, landmarks, neighborhoods, etc. Mr. Gross suggested creating a town center history project to document the architectural and cultural history of the center, as well as West Concord center. Ms. Strausberg stated that the Commission does not have a good answer for what applicants can do during the demolition delay period, and suggested coming up with a list of ideas. Ms. Gill stated that the Commission should see what other town’s do and what options they provide to applicants. Ms. Strausberg stated that she was watching a television program and learned that there is a west coast town/city (possibly Portland or Seattle) that requires a certain percentage of the structure to be salvaged for re-use [either for free or low cost]. Ms. Strausberg stated that she like the idea of encouraging the recycling of historic materials. Ms. Strausberg also suggested that the Commission think about how they could make all of their records, documents, and photos available on the website. Mr. Koh explained the history behind the archeological sensitivity map,

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and explained that they do not want to make it fully publicly accessible, but rather create a layer on the town employee's version of GIS. Mr. Koh wondered if this map could be accessed via a public records request, and how secure it would be. Mr. Gross asked how this map would be used. Mr. Koh stated that in Michigan, a little warning will pop up for the building inspector. Mr. Koh is going to find out if there is any bylaws tied to the Michigan map, and what the steps are when a permit is issued in an archeological sensitive area.

Mr. Koh presented a Walden Woods Archaeology Proposal to the Commission, titled "The Complete Concord: Preserving African-American History in a Quintessential American Town". The Commission discussed the proposed project, where the town line is in relation to the project, the phases of the proposed project, the funding for the proposed project, and the entities that would be involved in the project (including Walden Woods, the Robbins House, DCR, MIT, Brandeis University and the Harvard Museum Studies program. The Commission discussed possibly sponsoring the CPA application for funding in the fall.

Updates

Ms. Gill provided updates on the West Concord Depot, and stated that she had drafted a letter for the Select Board to send to the MBTA re. the condition of the building.

Ms. Gill provided the Commission with an update on the CPC's warrant article for funding; which includes two historic preservation category projects.

Ms. Gill stated that two CPA project accounts have been closed. She explained that the Wheeler Harrington House Studies project has been completed and closed, and that the Archaeology Administration project has also been closed. She explained that if Brandeis would like to conduct another study of the McGrath Farm in the future, the Commission will need to submit another application for more funding.

Minutes

Ms. Gill stated that the January minutes were not completed yet, and asked that they be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Other Business

The Commission discussed the need for new members and the open seats, and soon to be open seats on the Commission. The Commission reviewed two new green cards that have been received, since their last review and also discussed a potential member that attended the last meeting. Potential new member Thomas Beardsley attended the meeting and briefly summarized his history and interest in serving on the Commission.

Ms. Saalfield motioned to recommend Associate Member Robert Gross to a full member position on June 1st; and to nominate Thomas Beardsley to a full member position on June 1st. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion and ALL OTHERS VOTED IN FAVOR. The motion passed (5-0).

Ms. Nelson motioned to recommend Michael Capizzi to an associate member position. Ms. Saalfield seconded the motion and ALL OTHERS VOTED IN FAVOR. The motion passed (5-0).

Ms. Kaufman stated that this will be her last meeting as the Select Board liaison. Ms. Kaufman served as the liaison to the Commission for the past six years. The Commission thanks Ms.

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Kaufman for all of her guidance over the years. Ms. Kaufman recommended adding defining the term 'town character' to the Commission list of goals.

Ms. Gauthier moved to adjourn. Ms. Saalfield seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Minutes Approved: April 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted by:
Heather Gill
Senior Planner