

**CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
**June 9, 2022 7:00 P.M.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's office, the Town of Concord Historical Commission held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. using the Zoom meeting platform.

Commission Members present: Melissa Saalfield, Nancy Nelson, Alan Bogosian  
Associate Members: Francesca Cataldo, Rebecca Lemaitre  
Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner; Ann Clifford, Senior Planner  
Others: Kristin Dahlmann; Lois Suarez

Ms. Saalfield called the meeting to order at 7:02 1872 P.M. by a roll call vote.

1) Historic House Marker Application – 1 Sudbury Road

The commission approved the application to the historic house marker program for the George Brooks House at 1 Sudbury Rd. with a slight adjustment to the text of the marker to be the "George Merrick Brooks House, ca. 1872". Ms. Saalfield requested that the name "Merrick" be included, since the mother of George Brooks was Mary Merrick Brooks, an important abolitionist. The commission considered adjusting the policy of the historic marker program to highlight both husband and wife. This possible policy change will be added as an agenda item to the next meeting.

2) Commission Membership – Vacant Associate Member

Ms. Saalfield noted how the Commission would like to consider another policy change that would create true Associate Members with the authority to step in on a temporary basis when there is not a quorum of Full Members. That is, if a Full Member is not able to attend a meeting, the Chair would be able to select an Associate Member to complete the quorum and vote in their place.

Members should review the resumes of candidates for the Vacant Associate Member position over the course of the month, for a vote at the next meeting.

3) Review Draft Rules and Regulations for the Administration of the Scenic Roads General Bylaw

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the Draft she had prepared with the former Senior Planner, Ms. Gill. She highlighted Section 2.3 regarding the Legal Ad that she described as the issue that will take the most thought on the part of everyone. Ms. Nelson voiced her concerns about maintenance. Ms. Hughes said that maintenance is an Exclusion specifically called out in the Bylaw; however, it is an issue that can be addressed directly with the Town, separate from this Bylaw. She suggested that Commission members email her or the Chair with comments and suggestions to be incorporated into the Draft Rules and Regulations. A new Draft will be provided for review at the next meeting.

#### 4) Other Business and Public Comments

Ms. Lemaitre described a MassArt student project commemorating the lives of prisoners buried in the cemetery connected to the state prison. There will be an event next Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Saalfield introduced Ms. Dahlmann, 55 Fairhaven Rd., and Historic Preservation Studies student at Boston University. Ms. Dahlmann shared her presentation regarding four buildings in the Thoreau Business District (the Train Depot, Express Station, 59 Thoreau Street and 73 Thoreau Street) which, together, tell a story of the thriving, vibrant and diverse district. She thought that the area could benefit from the Historic Tax Credit Program and the National Trust's Main Street America program. Ms. Saalfield explained how the Historical Commission is responsible for surveying historic properties and nominating buildings to the National Register. Other matters would fall under the purview of the Planning Board, or possibly the Historic District Commission, which would be involved in any expansion to a local historic district. Ms. Saalfield also noted how critical the support of property owners and abutters would be to the success of any new initiative and suggested that the Commission consider this matter at a later meeting.

Ms. Nelson attended a Public Works Committee meeting the day before. She mentioned improvements on the Town's right of way, past Hildreth's Corner towards Barrett's Farm. There was some clearing of invasives.

Ms. Saalfield relayed how she and Ms. Cataldo had met with Jennifer Doherty of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) about updating Concord's Historic Resources Masterplan. Ms. Doherty noted how the existing document is less like a Plan, and more like a Survey of historic resources. It was created by and for Concordians and is unique to Concord. Ms. Doherty had indicated that a typical course of would be to hire a professional consultant to either: 1) create a planning document that incorporates a review of policies and strategies for preservation; or 2) conduct a survey or series of surveys of historic resources. Ms. Saalfield described a third approach, unique to Concord, that would update the survey and link it digitally to items in the Special Collections of the Library. She asked for feedback on which course the Commission would like to take. Ms. Nelson wondered if there could be a hybrid approach and liked the idea of identifying influences and sources of concern that affect historic preservation in Concord. She suggested looking at examples that follow the MHC "heritage strategies" approach in towns like Sudbury, Beverly, Falmouth and Lenox. Ms. Hughes suggested that the discussion be continued at the July meeting, particularly if the Commission is considering a grant application to the Community Preservation Committee for the project.

#### 5) Minutes

Mr. Bogosian motioned to approve the minutes from May 12, 2022. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes Approved: July 14, 2022

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ann Clifford, Senior Planner