

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2018, 7:00 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 Present: Diann Strausberg, Nancy Nelson, Andrew Koh,
Melissa Saalfield
Associate Members Present: Robert Gross
Staff: Heather Gill, Senior Planner

Chair Diann Strausberg called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Gill added a discussion of the conceptual landscaping plan for the Old Manse under other business. Ms. Saalfield motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Nelson seconded and all others voted in favor.

Preservation Restrictions and Annual Inspections

The commission discussed the need to create a process for annual inspections for the preservation restriction properties that the Historical Commission is in charge of administering. Ms. Gill stated that there are four properties in which the Historical Commission holds or are the stewards of on behalf of the town: the West Concord Depot, Barrett Farm, Thoreau Farm and the New Church of Concord. Ms. Gill stated that she would scan and upload the preservation restrictions for each of these properties to the Commission's website. The commission discussed the need to review each of the restrictions and develop a checklist that shall be used during annual site inspections. The Commission briefly discussed the physical condition of the West Concord Depot building and the need for the MBTA to maintain it.

Commission Charge Amendments

The Commission reviewed the draft amendments to the charge, which included adding a section to explicitly allow for associate members, and to allow them to serve as full members in the event that a quorum is not reached by regular full members. The commission also amended the charge to refer to the Select Board instead of the Board of Selectmen, and the Wheeler Harrington House instead of the Harrington House. Ms. Saalfield motioned to amend the commission's charge as discussed. Mr. Koh seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

Discussion: Marketing CHC/Educational Outreach

The Commission discussed options for educational outreach, including, updating the historic resources masterplan, and possibly restarting having a monthly column in the journal. Ms. Strausberg stated that the Historical Commission used to have a regular column in the journal. Mr. Koh stated that the column was well intentioned last time, but became too cumbersome for the commission. Mr. Gross stated that he used to write a column for another paper titled "where are they now?" in which he discussed what used to be there compared to what is there now. The Commission discussed what the overall goal of the monthly column would be and if they should come up with a list of topics. Ms. Strausberg stated that the column should be to market the Historical Commission and the work they are doing, and not to teach the history of Concord. She

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explained that the column should be about relative subjects, like the Wheeler Harrington House, 387 Sudbury Road, the Gerow Land purchase and Warner's Pond. Ms. Gill stated that she is not worried about the content of the column, but would be more worried about developing some sort of schedule or system to make sure that this doesn't fall to the wayside a few months in again. Ms. Strausberg stated that she will volunteer temporarily to be the fenceviewer for this project, and that she will further explore the options and contact some prospective writer.

Discussion: Archeology Report for McGrath Farm

Mr. Koh summarized the Archeology Report for McGrath Farm and the role that he played in the project. He explained that they were targeting the unwritten and everyday history at McGrath Farm in this dig. Mr. Koh stated that they would need to identify a specific period. He stated that there are remaining CPA funds for this project and that they had previously explored using the funding to buy cabinets to store the artifacts in. Ms. Nelson asked about drafting a scope of work for future excavation plans. Mr. Koh stated that they would need to choose a period that they would like to target, and they would need to come up with a better storage plan for artifacts for future digs. Mr. Koh stated that the artifacts that they excavated are currently being stored at Brandeis, and that they have been unable to find a storage location in Concord for them. He explained that they explored putting them here at 141 Keyes Road. Ms. Saalfield asked what the next steps are for the project. Mr. Koh stated that this was just a pilot program and that they would need to find a permanent home for the artifacts and any future artifacts. The Commission discussed different options including the National Guard Armory, the asparagus shed, the Concord Museum and the library.

Minutes

Ms. Nelson motioned to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2018 Historical Commission meeting. Ms. Saalfield seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

Other Business

Ms. Nelson stated that the Old Manse excavated an old foundation for the former Hosmer house.

The Commission discussed the open associate member position. Ms. Gill stated that she would go to the Town House and pull the green cards for the Commission to review at a future meeting.

The Commission reviewed a conceptual landscaping plan for the Old Manse. Ms. Nelson summarized the landscaping plans for the Commission. Ms. Gill stated that the landscaping is not under the jurisdiction of the Historic Districts Commission; however the hardscaping would require their review and approval. The Commission discussed the history of the landscape and how it plays into and differs from these plans.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

Minutes Approved: 08/09/2018
Respectfully submitted by:
Heather Gill
Senior Planner