

**CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
**July 8, 2021, 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, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. using the Zoom meeting platform. Meeting ID: 832 6342 2618 Password: 299087

Commission Members Present: Melissa Saalfield, Michael Capizzi, Robert Gross, Nancy Nelson

Staff: Heather Gill, Senior Planner

Others: Marcia Rasmussen, Nick Boynton, Linda Escobedo

Ms. Saalfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. by a roll call vote.

**Wheeler Harrington House – Tenant Request to take Outbuildings**

Nick Boynton presented his request to take the old shed from the Wheeler Harrington House property when he moves out. Mr. Boynton explained that he and his sons completed extensive renovations on the shed and it means a lot to them. Ms. Saalfield asked if they received town approval for the work on the shed. Mr. Boynton stated that he believes he had permission. Marcia Rasmussen stated that she recalls differently. Ms. Nelson asked if the NRC knows the extent of the renovations made to the shed. Mr. Gross stated that he believes that any improvements made stay with the landlord. Ms. Rasmussen explained that there is an official surplus process to release any town-owned property and the Historical Commission does not have the jurisdiction to grant ownership of the shed to Mr. Boynton. Ms. Nelson stated that the town will be conducting a public process to determine the future use of the property, and therefore believes that it is too early to declare the shed as surplus. The Commission members agreed that it was premature to declare the shed surplus at this time, knowing that the Town plans to conduct a public charette/outreach process to determine the future use and plans for the structures and site of the Wheeler Harrington House and Harrington Park.

**Demolition Review Bylaw**

The Commission discussed the passing of article 33 at town meeting. The Commission discussed the influx of applications that may be received due to the changes, and the possibility of an administrative sign off process. The Commission discussed having a submittal deadline for applications to streamline the process. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the NRC does have an administrative sign off process and stated that the building department receives about 20-25 demolition applications annually. Ms. Saalfield stated that the Commission should start thinking ahead and what other bylaw changes we should work towards.

**Discussion: Rte. 2A Improvements – MDOT 75% Plans**

The Commission reviewed the Route 2A resurfacing plans. Ms. Saalfield stated that the plans leave out the historic importance of the road. Ms. Nelson stated that the process for public review has been lacking and that the proposed changes will permanently change the character of the road. Mr. Gross stated that he couldn't tell from the plans if significant alterations were being made that would effect the historic features. Mr. Capizzi stated that the proposed project will change the road in many ways, including the historic feeling. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the majority of the work is not in Concord, and that the cosmetic changes are proposed in an effort to slow traffic down. Ms. Rasmussen explained that the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in the year 2025, and that MassDOT is trying to get the roadway done before then. Ms. Nelson stated that there are lots of signs proposed in the plans. Mr. Capizzi reiterated that the proposed plans will change the

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character of the road. Mr. Gross explained that they should not be altering the site in order to get people to slow down, so that they can now see the altered site.

**MHC Letter – 367 Commonwealth Avenue**

The Commission discussed the project and agreed that there is no adverse effects and had no comments on the project.

**Election of Officers**

The Commission discussed the need to elect new officers, but no one wanted to serve as Chair. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the chair should be rotated every year. The Commission discussed having co-chairs, so someone new can learn the role. Mr. Gross nominated Ms. Saalfield and Mr. Beardsley to serve as co-chairs of the Historical Commission. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion and all others voted in favor. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

**Updates and Liaison Reports**

The Commission discussed the need to develop a system to monitor preservation restrictions. Ms. Nelson provided an update on the Wright Tavern CPA project and the requirement of a preservation restriction. Ms. Nelson explained that the Historical Commission may be asked to assist in drafting the restriction. Ms. Nelson also provided an update on the team formed to assist the Wright Tavern in their project.

Ms. Saalfield stated that the HDC approved the plans for 1 Sudbury Road, and that she was unable to attend the Thoreau Re-development workshop. Ms. Rasmussen stated that 60 people participated, and that the discussions centered around parking and design guidelines. She explained that the point is to have zoning in place that is acceptable to the community before a large re-development project comes in. Mr. Gross asked about the town's plans for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the Select Board is looking to form a committee, and is currently accepting green cards for it. Linda Escobedo stated that the Select Board will be discussing the charge of that committee at their meeting on Monday night.

**Minutes**

Mr. Gross made an amendment to the draft minutes. Ms. Nelson moved to approve the minutes as amended and discussed. Mr. Gross seconded and all others voted in favor. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Ms. Saalfield declared the meeting adjourn.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.**

Minutes Approved: August 12, 2021

Respectfully submitted by:  
Heather Gill  
Senior Planner