

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
August 9, 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, Claire Gauthier,
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. Gauthier moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Nelson seconded and all others voted in favor.

Hanscom Field Environmental Status and Planning Report

Virginia Adams, Senior Architectural Historian from Public Archeology Laboratory, presented the 2017 Hanscom Field Environmental Status and Planning Report to the Commission. She summarized the report and outlined the historic and archeologic resources that were identified in it. She explained that she wanted to check with the Commission that the report is not missing any resources. Ms. Adams reviewed the noise analysis modelling and map that was conducted at all of the National Register listed properties. The Commission identified four resources that were not included in Table 10-3 in the report: Robbins House, Wheeler Harrington House, Hubbardville district expanded to include 387 Sudbury Road, and the Church Street Historic District. Ms. Adams explained that the air traffic noise has decreased since 2005. Ms. Adams stated that this is due to there being less overall air traffic at Hanscom, as well as smaller planes, less commercial flights, and improvements in technology making air planes quieter. Ms. Adams stated that they do not expect the noise analysis levels to change much in the next study. The Commission had no further questions regarding the report.

Old Manse Site Improvements

Guy Herman and Elizabeth Keary Soule with The Trustees appeared before the Commission to discuss site improvements to the site of the Old Manse and Minute Man Visitor Center including reconfiguration of the parking lot to properly utilize the 20 parking spaces including two accessible spaces and reducing the width of the entry driveway to a more historic width. Ms. Keary Soule stated that they have been working with Town Staff and the Fire Department to pick the proper materials. She also explained that they want to change the front door of the wood shed so that visitors are aware that it is an open museum. The Commission asked about the timeline of the project. Ms. Keary Soule stated that they are hoping for a late fall/ early spring timeframe, with permitting in September/October. Ms. Nelson stated that she has concerns about the size/length of the ramp and would like to see more details on it. The Commission asked if the entire site is handicap accessible. Mr. Herman stated that only the ground floor of the Manse is accessible. Mr. Koh mentioned that other countries are beginning to use virtual reality to offer tours of historic sites that cannot be made accessible to all visitors.

Preservation Restrictions and Annual Inspections

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The commission asked that this discussion item be placed on the next meeting agenda. The commission reviewed the list of current preservation restrictions and each chose at least one to review in more detail to be able to formulate a site inspection check list at the next meeting.

Commission Charge Amendments

The Commission reviewed the draft amendments to the charge, and discussed clarifying the Commission's role regarding the Wheeler Harrington House. The Commission discussed whether administer is the correct word to use. The Commission asked that staff ask the Planning Director for clarification on their role and how this item should be worded in their charge. The Commission suggested setting up a meeting to discuss this. Ms. Gill stated that she would check in with Ms. Rasmussen and try to schedule a meeting.

Discussion: Marketing CHC/Educational Outreach

The Commission asked that this discussion item be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Commission Membership

The Commission reviewed a number of green cards for the open associate member position. The Commission agreed that there are a number of great candidates with impressive backgrounds. The Commission expressed the desire to have a member with a background in archeology or architectural history. The Commission asked to run an advertisement in the journal for the open position seeking candidates that may have these backgrounds.

Meeting Schedule

The Commission reviewed the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018 and did not express any concerns.

Minutes

Ms. Saalfield motioned to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 and June 14, 2018 Historical Commission meetings as amended. Ms. Gauthier seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

Other Business

Ms. Gill stated that Columbia Pictures was looking into locations to shoot a movie, and the Wheeler Harrington House is being considered. She stated that she will keep the Commission updated on this should it move forward.

Ms. Gill stated that she submitted an email to the Army Corps of Engineers that the Commission has no comments on the Section 106 review process for the Cambridge Turnpike Improvements project.

Ms. Gill explained that the Historic Districts Commission is looking into expanding the Main Street Historic District to include properties along Sudbury Road, Academy Lane, Belknap Street Thoreau and Middle Street. She explained that the HDC is going to be conducting preliminary outreach to these property owners, and that she would keep the Commission informed as this project progresses.

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

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

Minutes Approved: 9/13/18

Respectfully submitted by:
Heather Gill
Senior Planner