

MINUTES: Waltham Historical Commission Meeting  
May 13, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Call of the Roll:

Present: Commissioner Russo, Commissioner Holmes, Commissioner Isaacson, Commissioner Dufromont, Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Daly

Absent: Commissioner Migdal

3. Reading and acceptance of April, 2019 minutes:

Amendments: 1. Clarke House should have (Bertoni Hall) 2. Executive Session should say; consideration of a legal issue. 3. Lacrosse has an E at the end 4. National Archive Building not Fernald. 5. Owners names for Development Prospectus. 6. Time of Adjournment.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended, made by Commissioner Dufromont

Second: Commissioner Wilson

In favor: ALL

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recused: None

4. Chair: Announcements:

1. Baldwin Cottage Tour is still pending; Pam will coordinate.

2. The commission has been invited to a training course on Secretary of Interior Standards for historic preservation in Weston, May 30<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please let Mort Isaacson know.

3. Waltham Historical Society, Mort Isaacson's book on the Mill Village Area.

Chair: Reading and description of correspondence: None

5. Chair: Public hearings:

a. Demolition Delay Hearing: 84 Washington Ave

Applicant Name: Donald Maillet, Anita Maillet

Comments by Applicant: Financial burden on the current owners.

Discussion by WHC: Commissioner Daly read her historical report on the property. Commissioner Holmes spoke on the architecture of the home.

Motion that the property is preferably preserved made by Commissioner Holmes

Second: Commissioner Russo

In favor: Commissioner Russo, Commissioner Isaacson, Commissioner Holmes

Against: Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Daly, and Commissioner Dufromont

Abstain: None

Recused: None

Tie, motion does not carry, as it stands with this vote, applicant is free to demolish the home.

b. Demolition Delay Hearing: 257 School Street

Applicant Name: Joseph M Connors, representing Silvestre Buscemi

Comments by Applicant: Mr. Connors presented a set of plans showing the exact location of the house on School Street. There is a 6 family brick building that sits on the lot, separated by a fence, but the brick house is a part of the same lot. Board of survey has agreed to separate the one lot into two lots, using the fence as the separation line. The single family home will be demolished and a two family home will be put up in its place.

Discussion by WHC: Commissioner Daly read her historic report on the property. Commissioner Isaacson added some more detail in regards to the area of Bacon St, along with the architecture of the home being a classis Federal Period Farm House style.

Motion that the property is preferably preserved made by Commissioner Dufromont

Second: Commissioner Holmes

In favor: ALL          Against: None          Abstain: Commissioner Wilson          Recused: None

#### 6. Development Prospectus- None

#### 7. Stonehurst: Monthly Report, Stonehurst Curator Ann Clifford

Summary: A report was submitted by Ann Clifford and presented the commission including upcoming programs, field trips to the Paine Estate, GIS mapping, and landscape.

Entertain a motion to authorize \$500 for landscaping (chipping debris from the vista clearing) moved by Commissioner Wilson

Second: Commissioner Daly

In Favor: ALL          Against: None          Abstain: None          Recused: None

Report submitted to the Secretary by the Curator

8. Wellington House Report: Preliminary report back on the structural work being done at the Wellington House. The chair is working with the architect to figure out exactly what the occupancy load will be based on the structural support findings.

#### 9. Liaison & Subcommittee Report

1. Fernald- None
2. CPC- Work on the French Club is done, waiting on final report. Does the WHC need to do a walk through to make sure work complies with Sec of Interior Standards? Commissioner Wilson will advise. Final letter from WHC to CPC finalizing work for Sacred Heart Church, and Stonewall Projects. Commissioner Isaacson will look to see if letters were drafted and sent.
3. Historic Inventory – Commissioner Holmes will have a report in November. Mass Central Rail Trail, they are moving forward according to Planning Director, Catherine Cagle, they have worked out the order of conditions.
4. Edu. & Outreach – Order a sample plaque in the new size for the Arrigo Farm Property. Commissioner Russo will contact Commissioner Daly to get the correct date of the property and name.

Motion to take Old Business (554 Lexington St) out of order moved by Commissioner Daly

Second: Commissioner Wilson

In favor: ALL          Against: None          Abstain: None          Recused: None

#### 10. Old Business

##### a. 554 Lexington Street

Lorraine Finnegan- representing the City of Waltham

Commissioner Holmes would like to see Waltham preserve this house, and not tear it down. Move the house to a new location preferably in Waltham, where it can be re-used and appreciated. Not suggesting saving the addition of the house. Commissioner Russo wants to know locations in Waltham we could move the house too. Commissioner Holmes suggests to put a preservation easement on the home and sell it privately. Conduct a feasibility study to find out where this house could be moved too. Councilor Darcy is interested in viewing the house, and looking into a new site for the home to be re-located. Lorraine will reappear before the WHC at the June meeting with the information requested by the WHC.



b. 125 Ash Street- Archie Bennett representing the owner of 125 Ash Street.

Re-consideration on waiving the demolition delay determination. (4 months left on delay)

A proposed structure was presented to the commission for new development. At the time of the determination, there was no plan for future development, now there is a proposed design. This house was the Methodist church rectory. WHC is suggesting bays on either side of the home, will add a more attractive, visual appeal to the neighborhood. Suggests showing more interest around the front entrances to make them look like a front entranceway, suggesting a presence of the neighborhood. (Porches, railings, columns etc.) New sketches and drawings will be sent to Pam, and the applicant will come back in June for a final decision to waive demolition.

c. Modification to Historical Commission bylaws with regards to Section 106/Chapter 9

Commissioner Isaacson handed out a modification to the bylaws which clearly states the 30 day response period in which the state has to respond to the applicant. Ask the clerk's office if the city runs on calendar days or business days.

Entertain a motion to accept these changes to the bylaws moved by Commissioner Holmes

Second: Commissioner Dufromont

In Favor: ALL

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recused: None

#### 11. New Business

a. Discussion of developing a strategic historical preservation plan for the city.

Commissioner Holmes: On occasion the commission is presented with full demolition proposals at our meetings. We have been able to establish a historical context in the meeting but less of a sense of our priorities with regards to certain types of neighborhoods or architecture; we preserve the oldest but in what context are we doing that? Put in framework to help preserve and make more informed demolition decisions.

#### 12. Adjournment at 9:54 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Wilson

Second: Commissioner Dufromont

In favor: All

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Respectfully Submitted



Secretary, Marie Daly

Prepared by Pamela Lyons