



Waltham Historical Commission
610 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02452

July 14, 2014 Special Meeting: Minutes (Approved 9/8/2014)

In attendance: Commissioners Alex Green (Chairman), Marie Daly, Mort Isaacson, Sean Wilson, Jack Cox (interim secretary)

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Mr. Wilson, to approve the minutes from the February meeting. All in favor. Ms. Daly abstains.

Mr. Isaacson asked that the phrase "a draft presentation" (page two, first line of the June minutes) be changed to "the presentation." Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Mr. Wilson, to approve the minutes of the June meeting with the above change. All in favor. Ms. Daly abstains.

Discussion of Fernald Acquisition Information Request from the Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Daly recused herself.

Councillor George Darcy and Ms. Diana Young, chairwoman of the CPC, were in attendance.

Chairman Green provided a brief description of the Fernald property, which is owned by the state.

Ms. Young: Asked about the demolition delay ordinance and the role of the WHC in obtaining tax credits for the property.

Chairman Green: Referred to the letter sent to the WHC by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (dated 6/20/2014) regarding preservation restrictions on the Fernald property. The entire property is on the National Register. Chairman Green pointed out that the Secretary of the Interior discusses "cultural landscapes" on his agency's website.

Councillor Darcy: Discussed topographical features of the Fernald property. The front lawn is specifically listed on the Register. Three watersheds are located in the property. Many of the wetlands have been filled in over the years, as recently as the late 1970s. Residents recall skating on a pond that is no longer there. The wetlands prevented downstream flooding. A stream that flowed through the property was placed in a culvert. There also used to be a marsh behind the Lawrence School.

Chairman Green: The entire property is on the National Register. A MHC document (Know How #3) was distributed to the Commission, as well as *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The Chapter 106 Review process says that any property that is listed or eligible for listing on the NR is subject to review by the MHC (which would consult with the WHC). Preservation restrictions and sightlines will need to be taken into consideration. In regard to tax credits, the Commission's role is to

write a letter of support, if the Commission so chooses. The Commission should think about applying for federal landmark status for the property.

Ms. Young: Would like information on the Chapter 106 Review process and the demolition delay law to be put in the Commission's letter to the CPC.

Old Business -

Rules and Regulations:

Chairman Green: The rules and regulations have been reviewed by Luke Stanton in the Law Department. Mr. Isaacson noted that Article IV, Section 3 (i) comes from Section 23-4 in the demolition delay ordinance, and Section 3 (j) comes from Section 23-7 in the demolition delay ordinance.

Citywide Inventory and Survey:

Chairman Green and Mr. Isaacson met with Eric Rizzo from the city's Information Services in regard to updating the dates of property listed in MACRIS and in the assessor's department.

Demolition Workshop:

Chairman Green reached out to Mr. Chris Skelley of MHC in regard to interpreting the demolition delay ordinance. Mr. Green suggested that the MHC run a workshop in Waltham for Commissions from around the state.

Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Daly, second by Mr. Wilson, to adjourn (8:50 p.m.) All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Cox