



Hingham Historical Commission

Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043

Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
March 7, 2016
Hingham Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

Members Present – Chairman Bob Curley, Huck Handy, Steve Swett, Kathryn Black, Sarah Carolan, Signe McCullough.
Vacancy - 1

Chairman Bob Curley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed new members Sarah Carolan and Signe McCullough.

Elect Vice-Chair

Chairman Curley stated that the Commission has not had a Vice-Chair since Commissioner Dyer moved out of state last fall. He nominated Commissioner Kathryn Black. Commissioner Swett seconded the nomination. Commissioner Black was elected in a unanimous vote.

Positive Train Control Installation

Administrator Andrea Young reviewed the proposed project to install four communications towers along the Greenbush Right Of Way. She explained that the Historical Commission was notified of the project because Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

The notification came from a consulting firm hired by the MBTA. The notice referenced the deadline for a comment period that was nearly over by the time the Historical Commission received notice of the proposed project. The Commission sent a letter to the consulting company requesting an extension to the comment deadline, additional information about the project and a representative who could speak in depth about what is being proposed. Administrator Young and the Director of Community

Planning, Mary Savage-Dunham, will follow up with phone calls and additional correspondence if necessary in order to ensure an opportunity for public comment from Hingham residents.

Book Proposal - Alec Macmillan

Town Historian Alexander Macmillan and *Hingham Then and Now* Facebook Page founder Steve Dempsey asked for the Commission's support for their new book. Their first publication, Hingham Then and Now featured photographs of Hingham scenes and buildings taken in the past (*then*) and a current picture of the same scene or building (*now*). The proposed new book will specifically feature Hingham buildings built in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Commission will support the effort by making its documents and other resources available to Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Dempsey. The Commission will be recognized on the book cover.

Gazebo - Update

Commissioner Handy reported on a conference call that took place on February 3, 2016. Commissioner Handy, Chairman Curley, Peter Bickford and Administrator Young participated in a conversation with Giles Parker from the National Park Service. Discussion items included how best to access to Ragged Island, the island's terrain and the proposed construction site, susceptibility of the island and the gazebo to various types of weather conditions, construction plans and building materials, and handicap accessibility. The next step is to schedule a trip to the island on the Harbormaster's boat.

Almshouse Signs and Memorial

The Selectmen okayed the proposal for the signs and boulder, and their respective locations. The signs will be ordered this week.

Greenbush Historic Preservation Trust Applications

The due date for Greenbush Applications is Friday, April 29. Public Hearings will be held on May 16 and June 6. Visits to the project sites will be scheduled. Information about the Greenbush Trust and the grant application process will appear weekly in the Hingham Journal until through April, and on the Town website.

CPC Update

Chairman Curley reported that the following Historic Preservation projects will move forward to Town Meeting: Second Parish Church - Handicap Access; Hingham Community Center - repair leaded glass windows and replace clapboard on the front of the building; Preservation of Town Monuments and Maps.

Presentation Series - Town History

Commissioner Black, the commission's liaison working with Steve Dempsey to obtain videos already completed and intended for use on HCAM, said that she would like to view one of the videos he produced. Commissioner Black will contact Mr. Dempsey and make arrangements to obtain a video. The question arose as to whether or not the commission should obtain a general release from the people who were shown in the videos? It was suggested that the Presentation Series would also be an opportunity to publicize Preservation Projects Fund.

The minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting were approved as amended.

Chairman Curley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

The next meeting is on Monday April 4, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Young
Administrator