

## LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

## I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Harry Berkowitz called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM with Robert LaFlamme, Daniel O'Neil and Randi Zanca in attendance. Ken Warchol and Tim Reiter were absent. R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner was also present.

## II. WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS

No one from the public was in attendance.

## III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2019

*Motion was made by R. LaFlamme to approve the August 12, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by D. O'Neil. The vote in support was unanimous.*

## IV. PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT

Status of Revisions

Mr. Bechtholdt informed the Committee that the consultant has not provided requested revisions, noting comments reviewed by the Committee at its meeting of August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were forwarded to the Consultant, including edits provided by Randi Zanca.

Committee members expressed disappointment and concerns with the consultant not providing the corrected preliminary study report as requested. Members noted there was a delay in providing the initial draft to the Committee as well. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the initial draft was provided to Massachusetts Historical Commission and accepted. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the Committee will need to submit and present its Final Report at Town Meeting, revisions to the report will need to be provided.

Mr. Berkowitz wondered why the Consultant has not provided any feedback to address the Committee's comments with the initial draft and questioned if the Committee needed the consultant to attend any future meetings. Mr. Berkowitz suggested the consultant does not need to attend the October 8<sup>th</sup> public hearing and was not sure if consultant needs to attend Town Meeting; Committee members agreed.

Mr. Bechtholdt informed the Committee that the invoice from the consultant has been submitted, however there may be a delay in processing the check due to an Accounting issue. Mr. Bechtholdt explained to the Committee that the most recent payment (\$2750) has not been provided to the consultant and would follow-up with the Town Accountant. Committee members felt payment should be

NORTHERIDGE TOWN CLERK  
DOREEN A. DEFRONE

19 OCT -9 PM 3:28

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held at least until the consultant provides requested revisions. Committee asked that the consultant provide the deliverables at this time, which is to include the word-version of the report. Mr. Bechtholdt will contact the consultant once again to see when the updated report may be received.

#### V. PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, October 08, 2019 (7PM -Town Hall)

Mr. Bechtholdt informed the Committee that the public hearing notice was filed with the Town Clerk, mailed out to property owners and is to be published in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. Mr. Bechtholdt explained in addition to the hearing notice, copies of the Local Historic District Bylaw and LHD map were also provided to the property owners.

Mr. Bechtholdt reminded Committee members to review the guidance document [on the Public Hearing] prepared by Mass Historical Commission in advance of the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Berkowitz noted there may be some confusion with the public on the process to add additional properties, it's not something that can be done overnight as some in the public may have suggested. Randi Zanca sought clarification about how one would put new properties in the historic district. Mr. Berkowitz explained the process would be similar to what the Study Committee is currently undertaking, including a study report and vote at Town Meeting. Mr. Bechtholdt noted the proposed LHD Bylaw includes provisions for amendments in accordance with MGL.

#### VI. WHITINSVILLE -WALKING TOUR

Saturday, September 21, 2019 (9AM -Downtown)

Mr. Berkowitz reminded Committee members that he will be leading a walking tour of the proposed Whitinsville Historic District on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9AM, as part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor's GO initiative. Mr. Berkowitz noted the event was free and open to the public.

Mr. Bechtholdt noted he posted this on the town's webpage and filed a meeting notice in the event a quorum of the Committee was to attend.

#### VII. 2019 FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 (7PM -Middle School)

Mr. Bechtholdt advised the Committee that the warrant article has been submitted and is awaiting input from Town Counsel (KP Law) on comment/revisions in preparation for Town Meeting considerations. Mr. Berkowitz will attend upcoming Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meetings to review the article.

Mr. Berkowitz suggested Committee members encourage everyone they know to come out and vote.

85 VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

86 Review

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88 No new correspondence.

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90 IX. ADJOURN MEETING

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92 *Motion was made by D. Nolan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. Laflamme.*

93 *The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.*

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95 Respectfully submitted,

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99  Randi Zanca, Member

100 Local Historic District Study Committee

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102 Cc: Town Clerk