

SWAMPSCOTT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2017

7:00 PM

86 Burrill Street, Swampscott, MA

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	Justina Oliver, Bill Joyce, Bill Travascio, Richard Smith, Shannon Phelan, Sylvia Belkin
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u>	Jean Reardon, Kim Barry, Paula Pearce
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	None
<u>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:</u>	7:08 pm
<u>MINUTES:</u>	Minutes for the Historical Commission meeting on April 4, 2017 were unanimously approved, with minor edits, after a motion by Sylvia as seconded by Bill T.
<u>TREASURER'S REPORT:</u>	Kim reported via email that the account contains \$979.00.
<u>MBTA – NEW ANTENNAE:</u>	The Commission discussed two monopole towers proposed to be located within MBTA right-of-way (ROW), with respect to their potential to directly or indirectly affect historic properties. The northern tower, proposed to be located at approximately 324 Essex Street, was not deemed to be abutting any historic properties. The southern tower, proposed to be located on the east side of Burrill Street on the railroad ROW platform, is across the street from the historic train station building. Although not located within the historic district boundaries, the 70-foot tower will be highly visible in the viewshed of the station. Commission members expressed concern about the height of the towers, particularly the southern tower, as compared to adjacent structures. The southern tower will be approximately three times the height of the adjacent building and twice the height limit of structures in town. Members indicated that the southern tower would aesthetically detract from views of the train station and would be inappropriate for the neighborhood. Justina will draft a letter responding to Ramaker & Associates' request for comments.

<u>PRESERVATION AWARDS:</u>	Commission members discussed the annual preservation awards. Members had previously voted to give an award to 1050 Humphrey Street. Upon a motion by Shannon, as seconded by Bill T., members voted to give an award to 34 Sheridan Road in Swampscott for its porch restoration. Upon a motion by Justina, as seconded by Bill J., members voted to give a plaque and historical report to the owners of 1080 Humphrey Street, who had previously won a preservation award in 2011. Members also voted to give a plaque to the First United Church at 143 Burrill Street, a previous award recipient in 2012, pending its management company's approval of displaying a plaque on the exterior of the building. Members also discussed giving a certificate of appreciation to the party responsible for replacing the wood roof of the gate to Gale Road.
<u>69 ROCKLAND STREET:</u>	Commission began the discussion of the initial determination of the significance of the building at 69 Rockland Street in response to the owners' request for a demolition permit. Justina provided an overview of the history of the property and the previous owners. The building is listed as SWA.409 in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). The building is also mentioned in the Form B for Area A – Swampscott Center in the 1993 inventory and predates the incorporation of Swampscott. Richard discussed the unique architecture of the building as being a classic cottage that has been expanded with Georgian detailing. Justina will contact Pete Kane to confirm whether the 45-day time limit for making the initial determination includes weekends. Members discussed needing additional time, and it was decided to postpone voting on the initial determination until a later date.
<u>DEMOLITION DELAY BYLAW:</u>	The amendment to the demolition delay bylaw has been drafted, and Justina and Richard previously met with Don Hause to make final changes. Changes since the last version reviewed included adding a provision that repair or replacement of materials in-kind would not trigger a Historical Commission review. The language about calculating a percentage of the square footage of the structure to be demolished has been removed. Richard suggested drafting a flow chart to assist the building department staff and members of the public in understanding the demolition process and when the

	Commission is notified.
<u>INVENTORY AND OUTREACH:</u>	Sylvia contacted the Town Administrator to ask how he recommends proceeding to make the most recent historical inventory publicly available. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he would be glad to assist us after Town Meeting has passed.
<u>NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:</u>	June 6, 2017
<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>	9:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Phelan, Secretary