

## **SWAMPSCOTT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

February 7, 2017

7:00 PM

22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA

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| <b><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>         | Justina Oliver, Kim Barry, Paula Pearce, Richard Smith, Sylvia Belkin, Bill Joyce, and Bill Travascio   |
| <b><u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u></b>          | Shannon Phelan, Jean Reardon  |
| <b><u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u></b>          | None  |
| <b><u>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:</u></b> | 7:03 PM   |
| <b><u>MINUTES:</u></b>                 | <p>Commission members discussed purchasing plaques, modeled after the white square signs in Salem, for historical properties in Swampscott. Justina noted that the Commission could fundraise, per state statute, but would need to designate what the funds would go to. Bill Joyce added that the Commission previously sold plaques when the Swampscott Train Depot was remodeled. The medallions sold had a picture of the station on it.</p> <p>After no further discussion the minutes for the Historical Commission meeting on January 3, 2017 were unanimously approved, after a motion by Sylvia, as seconded by Bill J.</p> |
| <b><u>TREASURER'S REPORT:</u></b>      | No Treasurer's Report – Kim is looking into other communities that own properties that they rent. Justina noted that there is more to come on White Court as the Planning Board is interested in proposing an article at Town Meeting in the spring.  |
| <b><u>COMMITTEE UPDATES:</u></b>       | <p>Open Space-</p> <p>Richard asked the Commission if whether they thought private donors would be willing to purchase White Court, as had been the case with Linscott Park. Justina suggested that a non-profit, such as a 501c3, could be created to fundraise and purchase the property, like the Nahant Preservation Trust. Members</p>   |

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|  | <p>of the Commission discussed ways that the Town could establish a non-profit and brainstormed ways the Commission could partner with other local, and national, nonprofit associations.</p> <p>HDC-</p> <p>Richard discussed the possibility of the formation of a 'Friends of the Olmsted District' group. The purpose of the group is that they could fundraise and work to promote the Olmsted District.</p>   |
| <p><u>MHC PRESERVATION PROJECTS FUND GRANT:</u></p>                    | <p>Justina announced that Gino Cresta, Interim Town Administrator &amp; Department of Public Works Director, would be the Grant Project Manager. Architects would be hired to work on the grant specifics; scope, etc. Justina suggested that the HDC write a letter in support of the project. She noted that the grant would not cover all project costs, for example; roof replacement, non-renewable resources, and architectural costs. Richard mentioned that the HDC, nor the Historical Commission, have seen the construction plans, and that it might be helpful to see the plans so that both bodies can give feedback. It was noted that if the application is denied, it can be amended.</p> |
| <p><u>NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION WHITECOURT/ LITTLE'S POINT:</u></p> | <p>Kim discussed that the application time frame could be 18-24 months, since the National Register of Historic Places only reviews 4 to 6 applications per quarter. To begin the process a letter of support should come from the Chair of the Historical Commission, at which point there is a 2 to 4 week waiting period. Lastly, the Commission would need to gauge the support of the neighbors. The Commission members discussed the length of time for the Olmsted District to be approved and what the options were for approval, i.e., Little's Point or just the properties of White Court and Blytheswood.</p>   |
| <p><u>BUILDING STATUS UPDATE:</u></p>                                  | <p>Train Station-</p> <p>Bill J discussed with the Commission members a report he wrote about the history of the Swampscott Train Depot and prospective ideas for the future of the property. Bill J suggested that the property be restored to its 20<sup>th</sup> century appearance and that a company</p>   |

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|   | <p>moving into the space, potentially on a long-term lease, could pay for the continual maintenance. Bill added that the Commission with Gino Cresta, should visit the site and conduct an onsite evaluation of the condition of the building. Bill Travascio said that he spoke with a person from Mass Realty Group, the company that oversees all of the MBTA's available properties. The MBTA is not willing to sell the property but would be willing to lease it. However, the Town is currently paying an expired lease on the property, which the MBTA considers active, and that lease would need to be broken first. Justina mentioned that Town Meeting appropriated a sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be used for the upkeep of the property. Justina wondered if the Town could sublet the property? Paula added that once the new Town Administrator begins, the Commission could meet with him and get Board of Selectmen approval to visit the station.</p> <p>Old Senior Center-</p> <p>Justina mentioned that the Town is working on a lease with Reach Arts, but that the Town would need to pay for the building's maintenance.</p> |
| <u>PRESERVATION AWARDS:</u>                               | Justina spoke about the process for the upcoming round of preservation awards. Applications are due by March 31st, will be reviewed at the Commission's April meeting, and awarded in May.  |
| <u>CPA COMMITTEE:</u>                                     | Tabled until the March, 2017 meeting.   |
| <u>HISTORICAL COMMISSION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:</u> | Tabled until the March, 2017 meeting.   |
| <u>OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:</u>                              | <p>Preservation Bylaw Amendment Update-</p> <p>Justina said that the bylaw amendment has been submitted to the Town and that the Commission would need to hold a public forum.</p> <p>Commission Headquarters-</p> <p>The Fire Department's living quarters have been finished and the firefighters have moved back into the fire station.</p>  |

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| <u>NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:</u> | TBD     |
| <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>            | 9:34 PM |

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Travascio