

## **SWAMPSCOTT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

October 4, 2016

7:00 PM

86 Burrill St, Swampscott, MA

<b><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Justina Oliver, Richard Smith, Jean Reardon, Sylvia Belkin, Shannon Phelan, Bill Joyce, Kim Barry, Paula Pearce, Bill Travascio
<b><u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u></b>	None
<b><u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u></b>	None
<b><u>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:</u></b>	7:01 PM
<b><u>TREASURER'S REPORT:</u></b>	Kim reported that the budget is \$1,207.
<b><u>MINUTES:</u></b>	Minutes for the Historical Commission meeting on September 21, 2016 were, with several corrections to spelling, unanimously approved, after a motion by Sylvia, as seconded by Bill Joyce.
<b><u>INTRODUCTIONS:</u></b>	The Commission welcomed new members Paula Pearce and Bill Travascio, and each member briefly introduced themselves.
<b><u>57 ROCKLAND STREET:</u></b>	The Commission discussed that the owners of 57 Rockland Street have been informed that they need approvals for any new proposed structure prior to issuance of a demolition permit. The Building Department indicated that we would soon be getting a package for approval and that our feedback will be sent to the Planning Department.
<b><u>COMMITTEE UPDATES:</u></b>	Richard reported that there were no significant updates from the Open Space Committee and Historic District Commission, other than the Johnson Park Redesign project, which is further discussed below.
<b><u>JOHNSON PARK DESIGN FEEDBACK:</u></b>	The Commission was requested to provide feedback to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and Planning Department regarding the proposed Johnson

	<p>Park Redesign project. Each of the nine design elements on the Planning Department's Feedback Form were discussed, and members provided feedback as to whether the element should be kept, removed, or possibly considered as a "maybe" with suggested changes. In general, the members favored keeping the rain garden, raised planting beds, trash enclosures, bicycle racks, storm water berms, entrance sign, and exedra. Some suggested modifications included using engraveable granite slabs in the benches, adding stop logs to the stormwater berms, adding more trash enclosures, and incorporating a historical plaque into the entrance design. The Commission recommended removing the shade structure/ pergola, as it was not historically accurate, not aesthetically pleasing, and not deemed practical to maintain. A wooden pergola was suggested to frame the park entrance. Members recommended removing the changing station/port-o-lets and using facilities at the Phillips Park parking lot area. For the raised picnic area, the Commission recommended fixing the design to be more accessible for people with disabilities. Members also suggested that the town should hire a design professional for the park. Recommendations and suggestions were compiled by Justina and will be sent to the Planning Department.</p>
<p><u>PRESERVATION BYLAW AMENDMENTS:</u></p>	<p>The Historical Commission discussed the proposed amendments to the Preservation Bylaw. Members voted unanimously to approve the bylaw amendment, as edited by Peter Kane, after a motion by Shannon as seconded by Sylvia. It was suggested that the Commission and/or Planning Department hold a public hearing to answer questions about the proposed amendment prior to Town Meeting. Justina will follow-up with the Planning Department.</p>
<p><u>BUILDINGS UPDATE:</u></p>	<p>White Court is reportedly in the process of being purchased by a religious group, which intends to preserve the structure. An RFP is out for the development of the former Phillips School (Greenwood Middle School) property. For the former Senior Center, REACH is compiling a to-do list for the property and is looking for grants for rehabilitation.</p>

<u>GOALS:</u>	Justina and Shannon are working on a spreadsheet for goals for the Commission and will circulate a draft at the next scheduled meeting in November.
<u>PUBLIC OUTREACH:</u>	Bill Joyce indicated that a local teacher was interested in having the Commission do a classroom presentation. Justina indicated that there is now a Commission email address that members of the public can use to contact us. The email address will be posted on social media. Paula suggested creating a presentation to educate realtors about what the local bylaws mean.
<u>SURVEY UPDATE:</u>	Sylvia reported that the Form Bs and inventory information would be put into an online database with the help of Michele from IT. Justina will introduce Kim to Michele to review the “informational architecture” (i.e., where the inventory information will be posted, how it will be accessible to the public). Sylvia and Shannon will coordinate on sending letters to the homeowners of each of the Form B buildings to educate them about the survey and its goals.
<u>RULES AND REGULATIONS:</u>	Justina will find out the status of the Rules and Regulations for review and discussion.
<u>PRESERVATION AWARDS FOLLOW-UP :</u>	Susan Munafo has sent in articles to local newspapers about the preservation awards. Justina will contact Lauren Baker to inquire about presenting their award on their porch.
<u>TRAILS and SAILS FOLLOW-UP:</u>	At least 66 people attended the Trails and Sails event on September 24, 2016.
<u>NAME CHANGE:</u>	The Commission briefly discussed changing the name from Historical Commission to Historical Preservation Commission. The discussion will be continued at a future meeting.
<u>NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:</u>	November 1, 2016
<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>	9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Phelan, Secretary