

SWAMPSCOTT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING LOCATION: Virtual Meeting
Thursday, January 4, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Received by Town Clerk
May 6, 2024 12:40pm

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	Nancy Schultz, Jonathan Leamon, Brad Graham, Ryan Judkins, Justina Oliver, Kim Barry
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	Richard Smith, Francesca O'Reilly, Brendan Bradley
1. <u>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER</u>	N. Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. <u>11 BOYNTON STREET</u>	<p>N. Schultz provided an overview of the initial determination and public hearing on the demolition application.</p> <p>B. Graham moved that the Commission find demolition would be detrimental to the architectural and social heritage of the town, and therefore the structure is preferably preserved. J. Leamon seconded. Unanimously approved, and a nine-month demolition delay was imposed.</p>
3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>	<p>J. Leamon moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023 meeting, as amended. J. Oliver seconded. Unanimously approved, with R. Judkins and K. Barry abstaining.</p> <p>J. Leamon moved to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2023 meeting. J. Oliver seconded. Unanimously approved, with R. Judkins and K. Barry abstaining.</p>
4. <u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u>	R. Judkins was unable to obtain current account balances from the town. He reported a \$500 deposit into the revolving fund for a plaque payment.
5. <u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u>	The Commission will be holding fundraisers for the Glover House at Cantina Mexicali

	<p>(January 14) and Dockside Pub (January 29). J. Oliver has been working on a 5km race fundraiser. J. Oliver also suggested an architectural tour fundraiser, using Salem Trolley.</p> <p>N. Schultz, J. Leamon, and K. Barry will review the Essex Heritage grant and the scope of projects for which grant funds may be used.</p> <p>N. Schultz reported that Mary Ellen Lepionka is continuing her research into the Penobscot photograph. K. Barry performed related research on Frank Loring, which has been added to the Town Hall cases.</p>
6. <u>BYLAW CHANGES</u>	<p>N. Schultz provided an overview of the bylaw change process, which requires approval by town meeting and sign-off at the state level.</p> <p>B. Graham provided an overview of potential substantive changes, including an extended demolition delay and finite fine for violation. J. Oliver and R. Judkins discussed adding language allowing the Commission to negotiate fines/remedies with the property owner. Per J. Leamon, town counsel advised against doing so.</p> <p>R. Judkins raised concerns about negotiating with an owner prior to imposition of a demolition delay, as it weakens the Commission's negotiating position. He also suggested specifying the account into which fine funds are deposited. If the funds were to go to the Commission, the town would need to increase the current cap on the revolving fund.</p>
7. <u>PLAQUE PROGRAM</u>	<p>The program has been paused temporarily. Various members provided information regarding potential sign makers. N. Schultz suggested requesting quotes and information on the materials each sign maker uses, and discussing the information at a later meeting.</p>

8. <u>POTENTIAL PROJECTS</u>	<p>N. Schultz suggested retaining an archivist to assist with influx of materials to the archives.</p> <p>R. Judkins suggested retaining a videographer to create a mini-documentary of town hall exhibits, to allow more people to experience the exhibits.</p> <p>R. Judkins suggested establishing a program to donate historical plaques to homeowners.</p> <p>N. Schultz suggested installing more interpretive signs throughout the town.</p>
9. <u>NEXT MEETING</u>	Scheduling of the February meeting is to be determined. The Commission has agreed to continue to meet virtually via Teams.
	Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad W. Graham, Secretary
Swampscott Historical Commission