

Town of Harwich
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Historic District and Historical Commission
732 Main Street, Harwich, MA
Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 6:00 PM
Small Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members and Staff Present; Chairperson Mary Maslowski, Bob Doane, Brendan Lowney, Julia Eldridge, and recording Secretary Patti Macura

Chairperson Mary Maslowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Maslowski notified the board that Jeanne Steiner, a long-time member of the HDHC has chosen to retire from the board. Ms. Maslowski stated that Ms. Steiner did a fantastic job for the HDHC including her assistance with the proposed revisions for the demolition delay By-law which will hopefully be included at the next town meeting. Ms. Maslowski thanked her for all her years of service to the Historic District and Historical Commission. Jeanne's contributions are greatly appreciated. She will be greatly missed.

A. Reorganization

Ms. Maslowski opened the discussion regarding reorganization for a new Chairman and Vice Chair. A roundtable discussion took place.

Mr. Lowney moved to nominate Mary Maslowski as Chairman. Seconded by Julia Eldridge. Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Doane moved to nominate Julia Eldredge as Vice Chairman. Second by Mary Maslowski. Motion carried 4-0

B. Discussion and Possible Vote

a. Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2021

Mr. Doane moved to approve the minutes. Second by Mr. Lowney. Motion carried 4-0

C. Other Updates

a. Ms. Maslowski suggested that the review and discussion regarding the email communication from Sarah Korjeff of the Cape Cod Communication be taken out of order. Ms. Korjeff's email indicates that the Cape Cod Commission staff recently created a mobile application to inventory historic buildings and asked if Harwich would like to test it. The program is a computer assisted application, similar to the information provided on the Form B. The Cape Cod Commission would do the in-person visits, take photographs and input the information into the record at no charge to the town. This application would essentially replace the Form B. This would be a great opportunity for Harwich. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Mr. Doane would reach out to Ms. Korjeff for next steps. Ms. Maslowski will reach out to the

Harwich Administration and the Board of Selectmen to confirm both Administration and the Selectmen are in favor of a partnership between the HDHC and the Cape Cod Commission on this project.

The board entertained a motion to pursue the project with the Cape Cod Commission and to reach out to administration and Ms. Korjeff.

Mr. Lowney motioned to have Mr. Doane reach out to Ms. Korjeff and Ms. Maslowski to reach out to Administration and the Board of Selectmen as stated. Seconded by Ms. Eldredge. Motion carried 4-0

D. Proposed Property Study

- a. Mr. Doane mentioned that Ms. Donna Kalanick from Brewster shared her request for proposal (RFP) and that it would be available to Harwich should we decide to move forward. Ms. Maslowski also mentioned that she spoke briefly with Ms. Kalanick regarding the RFP. This will be a great opportunity for Harwich to get some of the necessary work done. We express thanks to Mr. Jon Idman, Harwich Community Development Director for forwarding the email from Sarah Korjeff.

E. Reports from Commission Members

- a. Mr. Doane mentioned that next Historic report to the Community Preservation Community (CPC) may be due in the next few months. The CPC is discussing and reviewing changes to the form. Those looking for Historic project funds through the CPC should reach out to the HDHC office and speak with the assistant to submit an application in order to get on the HDHC agenda for topic discussion.

Mr. Lowney explained that the Affordable Housing Trust is still working on the RFP for Sisson Road and is moving forward. Member discussion took place surrounding details regarding the project. Mr. Lowney will keep the HDHC updated as the Commission will need to weigh in.

Members commented on the Harwich Center street scape project and their disappointment for not being notified throughout the process. Additional conversations surrounding the beautification of the area, planters, benches etc. took place. Funds for a beautification proposal should be allocated through a capital project. This allocation suggestion would need to be conveyed to the Town Administration so the funds could be included in the upcoming budgeting process.

Mr. Doane then discussed the removal of the two grinding mill stones from Main and Oak Streets which took place at the time of installation of the handicap sidewalks several years ago. Both mill stones should have been returned upon completion of the sidewalks. One mill stone has been placed back, the second mill stone was believed to be brought to the highway department. It was agreed that Ms. Maslowski will reach out to Administration regarding the current location of the missing grinding mill stone.

Agenda items for the upcoming meeting; potential historic district beautification projects and the location of the second mill stone.

III. Adjourn

Hearing no other comments or updates, Ms. Maslowski called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Doane moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Lowney. Motion carried 4-0.