



Town of Hudson

Historical Commission

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Tel: (978) 562-2948

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

1. Roll Call

Chair Peter Breton called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members present: Peter Breton, Paul Shultz; Joanne Wheeler, Rachel Lynde, Jon Schmidt, Ron Sorgman

Staff present: Pam Helinek

2. Hudson History Signs

Rachel Lynde reported that she and Jon Schmidt were preparing to send text for the Hudson History Signs to Town Historian David Bonazzoli for review. She has a draft ready and Jon is working on his. Pam Helinek will send an introductory email to David Bonazzoli. Al Morel has reported that Pannier, the sign vendor, has indicated that there will be a 12-15% increase in the price since they provided their original quote. Pam Helinek will confirm whether there is still enough money for 7 panels or the Commission will need to either reduce the number of signs or ask CPC for some extra funds.

3. Mass Central Rail Trail Signage

Present: Michael Volk, Tom Green

Mark Terra-Salomão submitted the most recent draft of trail signage. Michael Volk requested an additional sign be added at Gleasondale Station. Tom Green requested additional signage near the Cranberry Bog discussing its history and signage about the Marlborough-Sudbury state forest.

4. Historical Survey

Historian Stacy Spies is completing work on some requests and comments submitted by Mark Terra-Salomão and hopes to complete the project soon.

5. Liberty Park

Peter Breton will talk to Veterans' Director Brian Stearns about possible cleanup or restoration work that should be done.

6. Demo Delay Bylaw

Mark Terra-Salomão submitted a new draft of the Demo Delay Bylaw which changes the cutoff for delay to 50 years instead of a specific date, and sets the delay at 18 months. Paul Shultz submitted a googledrive document of a discussion by other communities about their Demo Delay Bylaws. Pam Helinek commented that she thought a 100-year cutoff was more appropriate and a 12-month delay was long enough. Joanne Wheeler said that based on the document submitted by Paul Shultz, the 18-month delay would be more effective, but that the 100-year cutoff seemed reasonable. Ron Sorgman said that the 100-year cutoff was more appropriate. Jon Schmidt said that 50 years was a nationally accepted standard for determining historical significance, that the Commission might miss protecting historically significant buildings if they used a 100-year cutoff, and that he thought it was important to

use 50 years. Joanne Wheeler commented that a 5-year penalty for demolition without a permit wasn't strong enough, and that she preferred a 10-year penalty. Pam Helinek reminded the Commission that the Town does not have staff to support another regulatory board or to work with property owners looking for alternatives to demolition, and that if the Bylaw was approved by Town Meeting, the Commission would be responsible for its enforcement.

Pam Helinek will forward the Commission's feedback to Mark Terra-Salomão and will post the draft on googledrive. If the Commission wants the Bylaw on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant, the submission deadline will be the end of January. The Commission agreed to continue discussion to their next meeting and to schedule an extra meeting in January if necessary.

7. Town Meeting Article – CPC funds for Unitarian Church

The Commission discussed the article on the Fall Town Meeting warrant, requesting funds for work on the historic Unitarian Church. The church is very significant historically, but there was concern about the appropriateness of public funds going to maintain privately owned buildings. The Commission agreed not to take an official stand on the article, but to speak as private citizens if they wanted to express opinions either for or against.

8. Minutes – June 12, 2023 and August 14, 2023

Jon Schmidt moved to approve the minutes from June 12, 2023 and August 14, 2023, vote 6-0-0.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Ron Sorgman moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Peter Breton, vote 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.