

Bedford Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of 04/12/2016

Present: J. Linz (Chair), D. Corey, L. Dunham, R. LeSchack, S. McDonald, D. Silverman
Absent: G. Carpenter,

1. The regular meeting minutes of 03/02/2016 were moved, seconded and approved, 6-0.

2. Financial Report – The unexpended balance in the budget remains \$639.30. It was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, to increase expenses for hearing legal notices from \$120 approved at the last meeting to \$140.

3. Demolition Delay Bylaw –

247 Concord Road – The applicant Nathaniel Brown was present at the continued hearing. An inspection of the building by Commission members occurred on 03/16. During the discussion it was noted that extensive damage had been caused by 2 large trees that fell on the house during a storm. It was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, that demolition of the building be approved subject to submission of a plan for the replacement that is acceptable to the Commission. The size and style of the replacement should be compatible with the Concord Road area that is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The house at 14-16 Loomis Street was specifically mentioned by Mr. Brown as a 2-family house similar to what he intends to build,

178 Concord Road – The applicants, Rose Arseneau and Paul Wood, and realtors, Suzanne Koller and Kerry Sullivan, were present at the hearing. The house was built around 1930 and had been remodeled a number of times in ways that eventually compromised the structural integrity. After a discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, that demolition of the building be approved subject to submission of a plan for the replacement that is acceptable to the Commission. The size and style of the replacement should be compatible with the Concord Road area that is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

158 Concord Road – The applicant Brian Collins was present at the hearing. The house was built around 1860, and it contributes to the historic character of the neighborhood. Mr. Collins stated that heavy truck traffic on the road has compromised its structural integrity due to its proximity to the road. He intends to replace it with a single family residence similar in size and set back from the road, possibly connecting it to the barn on the property. The Commission was concerned with the potential loss of this building. It was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, that the hearing be continued to May 3, 2016, so that the applicant could address the concerns with his proposed plans.

29 Hartford Street garage – After a brief discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, that the garage was Not Significant and could be demolished.

4. Old Burying Ground – nothing new to report

5. Depot Park – DC reported that the Selectmen voted to renew the leases at the Passenger Depot (which all expire in December 2016) for 2-1/2 years. A number of tenants and others spoke at the meeting in favor of retaining the current building configuration and rentals.

6. Job Lane Farm Museum – SMcD reported that the Friends of the Job Lane House Board of Directors would be holding a meeting next week. She and Alethea Yates will be working on an interpretive sign for the property (to be funded by HPC). Spring cleanup is planned for May 7, including help from Grace Chapel members. DC noted that an area is being leveled with top soil near the barn for a mini-barn building demonstration project this summer.

7. Jenks Nature Trail – nothing new to report.

8. Shawsheen Cemetery – Kevin Duffy will be doing repair work in the historic section again this spring. DC noted that DPW was looking for any pictures of the Memorial Gates, apparently in anticipation of replacing them.

9. House Plaques – An inquiry for a plaque at 74 South Road was received by the Historical Society. DC will forward the request to GC.

10. Town Museum – DC reported that the grant application for the museum feasibility study was not approved by the Mass. Historic Commission. A conference call between Town Manager and MHC is pending to see if an alternative application might still be approved.

11. Community Preservation Committee – DC reported that the historic preservation projects proposed at Annual Town Meeting all passed. They include the JLH fire suppression system, replacement of wooden steps in front of Old Town Hall with granite steps, replacement of expended funds in the municipal Historic Properties Preservation Fund, and debt service on the Town Center-North Wing project (completed) and Town Hall project (current).

12. Fawn Lake Study Committee – SMcD reported that \$100,000 requested at ATM for design funds to dredge the lake also passed.

13. Cultural District Committee – nothing new to report

14. Old Business - none

15. New Business

- DC's appointment to the Community Preservation Committee expires on June 30, 2016, and he asked if any other member would like to be appointed to replace him. There were no takers.
- Historic New England is conducting a series of seminars that may be of interest to HPC members. DC passed out copies of the announcement to members.
- DC recommended that HPC purchase copies of the Communitywide Historic Properties Survey for each member as a reference for Demolition Delay hearings. It was moved, seconded and voted, 6-0, to appropriate \$200 for purchase of 5 copies of the Survey for members serving through FY17.

16. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Corey, Clerk