

**Bedford Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of 08/16/2016**

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

There is one vacancy on the Commission.

Also present: M. Rosenberg, Katherine Shutkin (prospective member)

1. The regular meeting minutes of 07/05/2016 were amended (wording in Item 6-Job Lane Farm Museum and highlight Demo Delay motions), and then moved, seconded and approved, 6-0.

2. Demolition Delay Bylaw –

445 Concord Road – The owner, David Rossi, was present for the continued hearing.

The owner has been considering various alternatives for either preserving or demolishing the residence and remains undecided. The Commission emphasized that it had an obligation to save this historic 17<sup>th</sup> Century building. One option would be to consider purchasing a preservation restriction easement on the building, after obtaining an appraisal of the difference in value between the existing building and whatever new building might be constructed on the property. The Commission would be prepared to seek a Reserve Fund transfer for the appraisal and Town Meeting approval of funds to purchase the easement if Mr. Rossi would consider it. Another option would be for the Commission to seek establishment of a single-house Local Historic District at Town Meeting, which could prohibit demolition of the house.

At the conclusion of this continued hearing, the Commission agreed to provide a copy of an appraisal of a similar property in Weston to Mr. Rossi for his reference and to have him speak to the potential appraiser. Mr. Rossi agreed to consider the approach and anticipated making a decision by the next meeting. It was voted, 6-0, **to continue the hearing to September 6, 2016, at 7:40 PM.**

158 Concord Road – The applicant Brian Collins was not present, and the hearing was continued to the HPC's September 6 meeting.

186 Concord Road – The applicant Rene Meijer was not present, and the hearing was continued to the HPC's September 6 meeting.

3. Financial Report – An outstanding balance of \$163.39 for legal notices from FY2016 was paid; JL will check to verify that the bills were paid from the FY 16 budget. The Commission's operating budget for FY 17 is \$1,307.

4. Old Burying Ground – The presence of several broken and fallen gravestones was noted. DS photographed the subject stones, and DC identified them by referencing the OBG Preservation Project records. One slate stone was previously repaired, and the other slate stone appears to have broken recently. DC contacted DPW regarding the broken stones and reminded them regarding the failing portion of the stone wall along Springs Road..

5. Depot Park – nothing new to report.

6. Job Lane Farm Museum – SMcD reported that a memorial bench was being installed at the house and that the Friends' mini-archaeological dig at Fawn Lake had been completed. Other pending projects include a new Entrance sign and replacement of the large sign by North Road

that is rotting. DC has contacted Facilities about the fire suppression system, replacement of a window, handicapped access to the barn, and removal of 5-gallon pails from the basement, but he has not heard back.

7. Jenks Nature Trail – There was a brief discussion of DPW's plan to remove several trees and widen the paved path to improve pedestrian access to the Middle School. MR reported that temporary easements are in place to perform the project.

8. Shawsheen Cemetery – DS reported that the Phase I work (consisting of repairs to and resetting of gravestones) is about complete. DC received an email from DPW advising that the receiving tomb brickwork had been repointed. Work on the Memorial Gates remains outstanding.

9. House Plaques – nothing new to report.

10. Town Museum – DC reported that he prepared a draft Request For Proposals (RFP) for the museum feasibility study, which had not been funded by Mass. Hist. Comm. He submitted it to Rick Reed and was advised that the project would be moved forward after several other more pressing projects.

11. Community Preservation Committee – A CPC meeting is scheduled in September, and DC stated that he will raise the subject of possible use of Community Preservation funds for a preservation restriction easement on the 1695 Richard Wheeler house at 445 Concord Road. Other towns have used CPA funds on private property for this purpose, but Bedford has not done so to date.

12. Fawn Lake Study Committee – nothing new to report

13. Old Business – A draft Demolition Delay handout for people applying for Demolition Permits was again discussed. Several proposals by DS and JL had been distributed. DC noted that Code Enforcement has a package of information that Demolition Permit applicants receive, including the HPC Demo Delay material. It was recommended that the handout be revised to fit on the back side of the Demo Delay application. DS agreed to work on the revision.

14. Certified Local Government – DC distributed copies of 2 emails he had received from Mass. Hist. Comm. One announced that Annual Reports were again due and it included the report form and materials. The second noted that they had not received Bedford's last 2 years' reports and that this report was needed. DC agreed to work on the report for this year

15. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2016, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Corey, Clerk