

MINUTES
Hamilton Historic District Commission / Historical Commission
August 9, 2018

Members Present: Edwin Howard, Chair, Elizabeth Wheaton, and Jack Hauck.

Staff Present: Dorr Fox

Ed Howard opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Ed Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 meeting as submitted. Elizabeth Wheaton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Howard explained the purpose of the Historic District Commission and Historical Commission, noting that there were two people in the audience that had expressed interest in becoming members of the Commission.

Scott Clement introduced himself to the Commission members and explained that he had a background in historic preservation and urban design. He is a landscape architect and has a masters degree from Harvard University. He has lived in Hamilton for nineteen years. He was attracted to the community because of the historic character. He is originally from Santa Monica, California. He has his own landscape architecture firm and has completed several high end restorations on the North Shore.

Kristen Weiss introduced herself and explained that she is the manager of Cogswell Grant, a historic site owned by Historic New England in Essex. She has held this position for eleven years. She currently lives in Asbury Grove and is on its historical committee. She graduated from Gordon College with a history degree and has received a Masters in Preservation Studies from Boston University and a Masters in Museum Management from Harvard University. Jack Hauck explained that he knows Ms. Weiss and believes that she is a good worker and will make a valuable contribution to the Commission.

Dorr Fox explained that there are two additional people who wish to become members of the Commission. One is Katherine Mittelbusher, who has a Masters in Preservation Studies from Boston University and has a professional background in historic preservation. She also currently serves on the Community Preservation Committee. The other person is Margaret Meahl who has an educational background in history and works for Historic New England, the regional historic preservation organization.

Mr. Hauck made a motion to endorse all four candidates for the three open positions and open alternate position. This recommendation will go to the Board of

Selectmen for appointments on August 20th. Ms. Wheaton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

625 BAY ROAD – MODIFICATION TO CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Mr. Fox reviewed the modified plans with the Commission, explaining that the homeowner planned to add a bulkhead that had not been previously approved. They are also planning to not build a fireplace, and instead construct a door in the rear of the building. Ms. Wheaton made a motion that the changes do not detract from the original Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Hauck seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PATTON PARK CANNONS

Mr. Fox explained the Department of Public Works has applied for a grant from the Community Preservation Committee to restore the cannons in Patton Park. There should be an endorsement from the Historical Commission to recognize that these are historic objects within the town. Ms. Wheaton made a motion to recognize the cannons as historically significant. Mr. Hauck seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

GOALS FOR UPCOMING YEAR

Mr. Howard stated that it appears that the renovation/restoration will be a major project in the upcoming year. He stated that he would like to see an elevator installed in Town Hall as part of this project. He stated that he thought that the architects for this project should meet with the Historic District Commission to discuss the project before it is submitted for their review. The other Commission members concurred. Mr. Fox stated that he would contact representatives of the Town Hall Building Committee to see if the architect could attend one of their upcoming meetings.

Mr. Howard stated that there has been a lot of discussion this past year about expanding the inventory of historic structures within the town. Mr. Fox stated that he would look into funding sources for this project. He noted that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has grants for inventories.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Howard noted that there is a historic preservation workshop that will be held on September 21st in Ipswich. He encourages the Commission members to attend. Mr. Fox stated that he would send out information to the members.

Ms. Weiss noted that there will be upcoming tours of Asbury Grove. The public is invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.