

Town of Southwick

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

Telephone: (413) 569-5048

E-mail Address: historicalcommission@southwickma.net

MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2007

Business

1. Reviewed and accepted the minutes of September 10.
2. Reviewed and accepted the minutes of September 20.
3. Reviewed and accepted the minutes of September 24.
4. Bills signed: Reimburse Barbara MacEwan for mileage, tolls, and parking for attendance at the Survey Grant start-up meeting at the MHC office at Columbia Point in Boston. \$ 80.
5. Report of Start-up meeting of Oct. 4 at MHC regarding the Survey and Planning Grant: Karen and Barbara met with MHC staff members Michael Steinitz and Peter Stott as well as Fitzgerald & Halliday consultants Stacey Vairo and Steven Bedford. Michael and Peter went over the requirements MHC has established for each type of inventory form to be used in the survey. Discussion ensued as to the digital part of the product to be produced. MHC requires that the digital product developed work with their system, and there was a discussion of the work in progress in the web site/computer area at MHC. Southwick Historical Commission with F&H will look at the new mapping done in the Assessors Office and see about developing the survey information on a disc that will be compatible and be a historical site overlay. MHC went over the reference material available for F&H use at the MHC office and the MA Archives. MHC also told the SHC representatives that archeological sites would not be included in this round of survey work. MHC would prefer that a separate survey be done just of archeological sites. Because sites 50yrs or older are considered for historic review (the rolling 50) for sake of this survey it was established that sites be included up to the 1960s unless there is a connection to a personage of historic note i.e. Rebecca Lobo. New dates were determined for the completion of each phase. The new dates are: Phase I Nov. 16, 2007; Phase II Jan 11, 2008; Phase III May 2, 2008; Phase IV June 20, 2008. An amendment to the contract will be developed to reflect the change in the dates for Phase I and II.
6. Architectural blueprint plans found at the MA Archives: While at the Oct 4th meeting pertaining to the Grant Karen and Barbara were informed that the archives had received the records of the old State Safety Board. These records included the plans for various public buildings in each town of the Commonwealth. Looking into the file found were the following plans: Consolidated School, Lakeview Inn, and two other buildings. Arrangements were made to have copies made for SHC's files. As copies of blueprints are not made at the MA Archives, arrangements will be made with Benjamin Franklin Printing in Boston for copies, which will come in disc format. BFP will contact SHC as to cost.
7. The Economic Commission held an informational meeting on Oct 1 regarding the College Highway construction project and the two phases of the Rail Trail project. Karen and Barbara attended. State Rep Rosemary Sandlin and State Senator Michael Knapik were at the meeting. They explained the status of the two projects and what the Town needs to do to move things along in relation to the College Highway project. College

Highway will be done in three phases – one of which is at the 75% stage. The other two are at 25% and the Town needs to get more involved in order to move things along. The Historical Commission has already met with Mass Highway concerning historic sites of which there are many. The Rail Trail construction is scheduled to begin next spring. The Historical Commission will be involved in the kiosks to be placed along the trail. Phase I kiosks will be paid for by a Coca Cola Grant whereas the Phase II kiosks are included in the overall cost of the project. The Commission needs to know when the material for the kiosks will be needed and how much design work will be expected of the Historical Commission so that it can be budgeted.

8. Report of the Oct 9 Canal National Register Nomination Committee meeting: The committee met at the Westfield Athenaeum with John Daley of PAL the firm that is working on the Pilot Study for MHC. Representatives attended from Southwick, Westfield, Southampton, and Easthampton. John explained the scope of the Pilot Study Part 2. This has been broken down into two parts with the first part dealing with the mapping of two target sections of the canal. One section is located in Southwick and the other section is located in Westfield. However, Pal devises to get the track of the canal onto the assessors maps will be the model used for the remainder of the canal. Part 2 of this second phase of the Pilot Study will deal with gathering a list of reference resources to be used in developing the historic narrative. Each community is in charge of developing a bibliography of the documents/any other reference items in their community. A visit to the museum in the Athenaeum museum was made to look at the items connected to canal history that were unearthed by Mr. Brown. John Daley was provided with a list. A letter that was developed to send to legislators inviting them to a presentation of canal history was reviewed and changes suggested. The final copy will be signed by all members of the committee at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in Southwick on Nov. 7 at 7pm.
9. Historic site list development: Todd made visits to the sites on Will Palmer Rd. and at the Ct State Line that were under discussion at the last work session. He took photos of sites on Will Palmer Rd. It was determined that the Ct. Line site does not exist. Crystal Brooks and Barbara worked on the historic resource list development after the Sept. 10 meeting.
10. Barbara will attend the Preserve Mass Barns conference to be held on Nov. 3 in Sandwich, MA.
11. Barbara stopped in at the Pioneer Valley Planning commission and obtained from Bonnie Parsons the items (photos, negatives, drafts of narratives) pertaining to 20 Depot St. that were not used in the final application. These will be placed in the Laflin/Phelps Homestead file.
12. The roster of members and meeting place, dates, and time of meeting was filled out and filed with the Town Clerk.
13. Sept 18 Planning Board hearing regarding the tractor store to be located at 681 College Highway: The Historical Commission sent a letter to the Planning Board suggesting that they encourage the company planning to erect a building to house such a store to consider a barn-like structure.

Mail

1. Lake Management Committee Min 8/23, 9/13, 9/25, 9/27
2. Planning Board Min 8/21, 9/4, 8/7, 7/24 Agenda 9/18, 10/9, 10/16
3. Conservation Commission Min 9/11, 9/17, 8/6, 8/20 Agenda 9/17, 10/1, 10/15
4. E-mail from MA Historical Commission. An announcement that the statewide reconnaissance survey regional reports are now on line at the Massachusetts Historical

Commission's web site (www.ses.state.ma.us/mhc). Under New at MHC click on "State Reconnaissance Survey".

5. From Past Perfect the newsletter for October
6. Community Preservation Committee Agenda 10/4
7. From Board of Selectmen a notice outlining the procedure to follow to notify the local newspapers as to meeting dates.
8. Planning Board notice of a public hearing to be held October 30 at 8pm regarding a proposed amendment to the Code of the Town of Southwick, Chapter 185-39 zoning violations and Penalties Bylaw.
9. From the National Trust for Historic Preservation the Forum Journal for Fall 2007. The topic of the issue is Heritage corridors – waterways, canal systems, abandoned rail lines, historic paths and trails, historic roads.
10. Open Space Planning Committee Agenda 9/12, 10/2 10/10
11. From MA Historical Commission a copy of letter sent Scott Ricker regarding 636 College Highway. MHC stated that it has no review and compliance records concerning 636 College Highway.
12. From Realtor Assoc. of Pioneer Valley Inc. an invitation to a smart Growth Symposium to be held at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton on Nov. 8 at 8am.
13. Board of Health Min 7/26, 8/23, 9/6
14. From the Northeast Document Conservation Center a notice of a conference to be held in Seattle, WA on Nov. 28-29. The conference will address the question of digital longevity.
15. From the Local Government Commission a notice of a conference in Washington, D.C. on Partners for Smart Growth to be held Feb. 7-9 2008
16. Economic Development Committee – a notice of a meeting scheduled with Senator Michael Knapik on Oct 1 at 7pm regarding the Rte 10/202 reconstruction and the rail-trail project.
17. From the American Association for State and Local History a notice about the fact that 2,000 sets of the Bookshelf (an aid for museums to sustain our heritage) will be given away free.
18. From Preservation Massachusetts the schedule and registration for the Preserve Mass Barns conference to be held on Nov. 3 at Sandwich, MA as well as the Preserve Mass Barns newsletter for Fall 2007
19. From the American Association For State and Local History the magazine History News for Spring 2007.
20. From the Planning Board a notice of a hearing to be conducted on Oct 2 at 8pm for an application of John Whalley for a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval for the property located at 479-481 College Highway.
21. From the American Assoc. for state and local History a notice of the 2008 AASLH Professional Development Programs.
22. From the American Association for State and Local History the newsletter "Dispatch" for September 2007.

Barbara MacEwan
Chair, Historical Commission

Karen Brzezinski

Todd Shiveley