



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Minutes November 19, 2007

Business

1. Reviewed and accepted the minutes of October 15.
2. Reviewed and accepted the minutes of November 5.
3. MHC Photography Project: Jamie Duncan completed photographing properties from the historic resource list developed by the commission. Select photos have been uploaded to MHC's new website. Chris Skelly provided the website address, user name, and password. Jamie will send the Commission a CD, which will contain all of the photos she took. Both Chris and Jamie were thanked for providing this service.
4. Planning and Survey Grant Project: Fitzgerald & Halliday has completed Phase I. The report for this Phase was E-mailed to the Commission. The Commission reviewed the report and made notations concerning corrections or additions. These will be addressed in the Phase I review meeting to be held with SHC, MHC, and F&H. The Commission is awaiting word from MHC as to date and time of this meeting.
5. Canal Pilot Study: John Daley of PAL would like to do the ground survey work (GPS mapping) the week of Nov. 25th. Barbara reported that two property owners still have to be contacted for permission for PAL to walk the canal route on their property.
6. Canal National Register Nomination Committee: The committee at their Nov. 7 meeting decided to send letters to Federal, State, and Local Officials inviting them to an informational forum. The committee hopes to get the word out about the goals of the committee and the importance of the Canal to the history of New England. Three tentative dates in January were chosen as well as tentative sites for the sessions within the six communities through which the canal passed. It was also decided to cover morning, afternoon, and evening times. The Committee will meet again on December 18 at which time dates and places will be finalized. The committee also went over the format of the forum sessions.
7. It was reported that the November 5 work session had been cancelled due to the illness of one of the volunteers.
8. Smart Growth meeting held in Northampton on Nov. 8: Of interest to the Commission was the perspective of this type of planning for development; whereby, properties of historic significance would be preserved (recycled as housing or businesses). It was pointed out that to restore or renovate historic properties gives a community a distinct character that makes it appealing to residents and those who want to invest in the community.
9. The plans for the Southwick Inn, which were submitted by R. Levesque, were reviewed. The Commission members commented favorably to the renovations and additions. It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter to R. Levesque indicating the Commission's acceptance of the changes to be made to the historic Southwick Inn.
10. Budget for FY09: The Commission level funded the budget for FY09. The following amounts were decided on for the various line items – Memberships \$390, Preservation \$1200,

Consultant \$500, Conference and Travel \$400, Supplies \$560. Total \$3050. The Commission, again, is going to request a part time secretary for 20hrs a month.

11. 20 Depot Street: The plans submitted did not address the studio out-building and the proposed Depot St. entrance to the development. It was decided that further discussion with R. Levesque and Attorney Richard Sypek needs to take place before a support letter is given. More specifics as to the preservation of the homestead need to be developed. Right now, the Commission is in favor of the general concept of a fifty-five and older condominium development, but is not ready to write a letter in support.
12. The Commission decided to cancel the December 3 meeting as the chair has another commitment. The next meeting will be on December 17.
13. Amasa Holcomb: The Historical Society has his autobiography. Lee Hamberg related that Amasa during his early life lived on Mort Vining Rd. Both of the houses on Mort Vining that were associated with Amasa have burned. The Commission asked Barbara to speak to the Society and ask that they open up their archives to Fitzgerald and Halliday for research.

Mail

1. From the Assistant Town clerk a notice to not staple meeting minutes that go the Town Clerk
2. Open Space Planning Committee Min 10/10 Agenda 11/14
3. From Christian Carey, Architect, the plans for the Southwick Inn renovation/addition. Also the plans for Walt's Car sales.
4. Board of Health Min 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1
5. Lake Management Committee Min 10/25
6. Planning Board _ Notice that the Planning Board will not meet on Nov.20 – will meet on Nov 27.
7. Notice of Intent from Mr. Jonathan Waite to build 2 single family homes at 68 Fred Jackson Road (Assessors Map D, Lot 59)
8. Planning Board Min 10/23 Agenda 11/6, 11/13
9. Economic Development Committee Min 10/1
10. Received a Notice of Intent from Gary Liquori re the construction of a single-family house and the moving of an existing house to another lot. The address is 264 South Longyard Road.
11. Conservation Commission Min 10/15 Agenda 11/19
12. From the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions The "Alliance Review" for September/October 2007
13. From the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen the Fiscal 2009 Budget Preparation Packet
14. E-Mail from Christopher Skelly regarding the completion of the photographing of properties from the historic resource list and the new website.
15. From the Department of conservation and Recreation, the fifth installment of **Terra Firma # 5 – Stones that Speak: Forgotten Features of the Landscape.**
16. From R. Levesque Associates, Inc. the plans for Southwick Inn and the 20 Depot Street project
17. From the MA American Planning Association an announcement of the 2007 Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference to be held on Dec. 7 in Worcester

Barbara MacEwan
Chair, Historical Commission

Karen Brzezinski

Todd Shiveley

