

Jul 29 2022 12:15 pm

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Attending: Keith Chenot, Sam Blair, Don Ostrowski, Meagen Donoghue, Charles Sternaimolo, Ellen DiGeronimo

Meeting Called to Order @ 3:11 pm

1. Ellen moved to table the Meeting Minutes for October 2021, Keith seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.
2. Ellen moved to table the Meeting Minutes for January 2022, Meagen seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.
3. Rules & Regulations: Sam and Keith worked on the Rules and Regulations and sent a DRAFT to the members of the Commission re-requesting that they review and comment on the DRAFT and return by next Thursday. A copy of the DRAFT will be forwarded to the Community & Development Director, and Building requesting that they review and comment on the DRAFT and return it by next Thursday. Once the DRAFT is updated, the Commission will vote to approve the Rules & Regulations and the document, including the Commission's Vote, it will be sent to the City Clerk and filed as an Official Document. Draft changes: Chairperson to Chair and clarify "meeting" and "hearing". Ellen will double-check the abutters notices, time frame: 2 week notice & posting and prepare a list of all the abutter and prepare a Draft letter to owners.
4. Demolition Delay Ordinance Draft: Minor discussion last month – focused on the timed period. Keith saw a WEBINAR from MA Historic in January re finding alternatives to demolition during the delay.

WORK IN PROCESS

Re review: delay period - 12 months? 50 years or historically significant?

5. Stonewall Preservation Ordinance Draft: Don is working on a handbook – looking for different types of stonewalls. Ellen suggested photographing each type of stonewalls. Discussion on goals: Ordinance or Educational Publication?
6. Simonds Saw & Steel Co: Ellen is still trying to get in touch with a family member to talk about funding for a Research Project.
7. Historic District Brochure: Keith sent material to Graphic Designer, a student at FSU. Material includes 4 National Historic Districts, plus 2 pending Districts, that may be added later. 4-3 panel layout. Next Virtual Mtg. – Tues. 3/3/2022 @ 3:30 pm
8. Filling Vacancy: Suggestion to consider realtor Tracy Sladen: need resume and background to submit to Mayor.
9. Wallace Building Stones: Ellen would like to discuss the future for the architectural stones salvaged from the entry of building. "Ideas", please.....put on your thinking caps!
10. Historic Markers: The artisan, who made signs passed away in Dec. His name was Bob Leonard. Checks were cashed in for three signs that were ordered. Keith contacted his

daughter to request that the funds be returned to the applicants. We will contact Monty Tech to inquire if there is an opportunity to have the signs made by students.

11. Ellen left at 4:48pm.

12. MHC Workshops on going.

13. CMHC: March 10 virtual workshop updating inventories. Free Virtual Mtgs.

14. New Business:

a. Charles wondered why Moran Square didn't have gardens. The Syndicate Bldg.(corner of Main St. & Sawyer Passway has been sold.....a developing building has appeared between The Syndicate Bldg. and the Old Fire Station.

b. Charles asked about Preservation MA Program for Endangered Properties. He thought we had applied for that designation for the Superior Courthouse on Elm Street. Preservation MA has scaled down their programs.

c. Update address on Website. Keith will contact the City Clerk.

15. Meeting adjourned at 4:58.

Co-Secretary: Ellen DiGeronimo and Chair, Keith Chenot