

Dennis Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026, Zoom Hybrid Meeting

Prue Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall 685 Route 134, S. Dennis 02660

Members Present: Diane Rochelle, Bob Poskitt, Bill Collins, Josh Crowell, Mark Levitt & Tim Scannell.

Excused: Sarah Kruger. Guests: Lois Andrade, Dennis Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director and Christine Gilstrom, Dennis Tourism Committee Co-Chair; Paul Foley, Dennis Planning Director; Kate Byron.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public Discussion: none.

Commission Information: Bob presented statistical information on the 5 villages of Dennis by century, their existing historic structures and the demolitions of historic structures. HC will use this information to increase public awareness regarding the importance of preservation.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 1, 2025 were unanimously approved as revised, motion by Bill Collins, second by Josh Crowell, (6.0.0). Minutes of the December 9 Site Visit were approved as revised with the abstention of Bill Collins, motion by Tim Scannell, second by Mark Levitt, (5.0.1)

Demolition Applications: Unit #4 257 Old Wharf Road, Dennis Port, has received approval from Zoning Board of Appeals for demolition of the existing structure and the rebuilding of a new structure. Historical Commission has not received a demolition application.

Old Business:

American Revolution 250th Anniversary:

- Bob and Mark will work together on the May 16 monument dedication at Dennis Village Cemetery. Bob has submitted the town's event form for Select Board approval.
- Bob is working on a digital photographic display of Dennis 1976 Bicentennial of the American Revolution with Dennis Administration. Photos can be seen at Jericho by appointment so the people in them can be identified.
- Diane will reach out to the Town Clerk Dept. to set up a 2026 award of the Boston Post Cane.
- Publicity for the 2026 celebration of the American Revolution was discussed with Lois Andrade and Christine Gilstrom. Information and photos for the April 9-July 19 Cape Cod Museum of Art Exhibit with installation beginning on April 7, the May 16 Dennis Village Cemetery Patriots Monument Dedication, and any other Historical Commission events must be sent to the Tourism Committee as soon as possible for inclusion in the April publication of the Mid Cape Magazine. There is a fee for individual advertisements which the Historical Commission has no available funding for. Diane will reach out to the Cape Cod Museum of Art to coordinate their advertisement with our exhibit. A list of events will be sent to the Tourism Committee.

Town Records Inventory:

- This item will return to HC agenda when new information is available.

Preservation Process of 1900s Structures:

- This item will return to HC agenda when new information is available.

- **Endangered Significant Buildings:** 352 Route 6A, D; 601 Route 6A, D; 330 Lower County Road, DP; 645 Route 28, DP; 66 Sea St., ED; 78 Sea St., ED – have no new information. Preservation of historic structures was discussed with Paul Foley and Kate Byron.
- The Historic Resource File for 633 Route 6A, ca. 1856 store of Prince Howes, later home of James Davidson, was reviewed for its historic significance. By a motion from Bob Psokitt, seconded by Tim Scannell, it was unanimously approved by roll call vote to list this structure on the Historical Commission Endangered Significant Buildings list, (6.0.0).
- The status of renovation at 141 Corporation Road, Dennis, will be researched for the next meeting.
- The historic significance of a home on Lower County Road near Bass River will be researched for the next meeting.

New Business or Unanticipated Other: May 2026 Preservation Awards will be discussed at the next meeting. Members send Diane the street address of any potential awards before February 2 so she can prepare the Historic Resource Inventory file. Planned preservation of West Dennis Graded School and Carleton Hall may be noted in the Preservation Awards power point presentation.

Adjournment: at 5:52 p.m., motion by Bill Collins, second by Josh Crowell was approved, (6.0.0).

Next Meeting: March 2, 2026, Prue Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall, 685 Route 134, S. Dennis, MA 02660, 4 p. m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rochelle.