

RECEIVED
Dennis Town Clerk
September 5, 2023
10:17 AM

Dennis Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023

Prue Conference Room, Town Hall, 685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660

SM

Members Present: Diane Rochelle, Bob Poskitt, Bill Collins, Josh Crowell, Sarah Kruger & Tim Scannell; excused Ken Van Tassell; guest Edmond Nickerson

Meeting was called to order at 4:02 p. m.

Public Discussion: None

Minutes: Minutes of the June 5, 2023, meeting were approved as received.

Demolition Applications:

- no new information re possible demolition of a barn at 121 South St., ED. By a motion of Josh Crowell, seconded by Tim Scannell, it was unanimously approved to reaffirm the historical & architectural significance of the barn at 121 South St., ED.
- 167 Main St., SD was reviewed re possible demolition. The structure & salt works well house were approved for demolition by SDHDC on July 5th. Bob attended the meeting as a S. Dennis resident to support preservation and Diane made a comment by zoom, indicating that HC had not yet been able to review the property. HC reviewed the ca. 1925 arts & crafts bungalow style, which was possibly built from a Sears Roebuck architectural plan. It is part of a unique "Jersey Colony" that Margretta Fort built, moving & saving endangered historic buildings, selling them to family & friends as summer homes. There is also a salt works structure, built by Judah Baker, that was moved here from Bass River to be used as a well house. The compound of 11 homes is still intact. By a motion of Bob Poskitt, seconded by Sarah Kruger, it was unanimously approved that the structures at 167 Main St., SD have historical, architectural and cultural significance. It was unanimously approved, by a motion of Bob Poskitt, seconded by Sarah Kruger, to request pro bono advice from attorney David Reid to see if HC has any legal standing to challenge the historic district demolition approval. It was also unanimously approved by a motion of Bill Collins, seconded by Tim Scannell to request of the owner a formal site visit for the exterior of the building only. It was agreed to have Bob set up informal meetings with OKHRHDC, SDHDC and Ted Moores, staff to both historic districts in an effort to streamline the efficiency of historic preservation.
- A possible demolition application was reviewed for a structure at 61 Taunton Ave., D, which will be reviewed by OKHRHDC on July 12. HC reviewed the ca. 1925 structure, which has no architectural or historical significance.
- A demolition application for a ca. 1840 barn at 32 Center Street, ED, will be reviewed by OKHRHDC on August 9. This address is the historic home of Capt. Prince Sears Crowell.

Old Business:

Bi-Centennial Map: 135 maps have been reproduced and will be sold at \$5 by Dennis Historical Society.

Preservation Awards: the August 19th program for preservation awards held at 1 pm at Josiah Dennis Manse Museum was reviewed.

Scargo Tower Historical Video: Tim re-shot the video and will have a new script next month.

Historic Resource Inventory Survey: complete, final report sent to CPC June 12th with request to close grant.

West School House Stabilization: re-opens July 29, minor finishing touches in progress.

American Revolution 250th Anniversary: no new information re CCMoA date for exhibit; CPC grant application recommended to SB & Finance Committee for November Town Meeting approval.

Dennis Historical Commission Meeting Minutes (continued)

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Endangered Significant Buildings: no new information on 401 Route 28, WD or 645 Route 28, DP. Review of existing list and addition of 5 North St., ED was tabled to next month.

New or Unanticipated Business: Edmond Nickerson asked HC to continue the conservation of records in Dennis Town Hall, specifically those stored in the auxiliary pod storage located in the rear parking lot. Assessor records are among those being stored in a non-climate-controlled environment. HC will review with the town clerk and apply to CPC for a grant next year.

Rebuilding plans for a property at 37 Nobscussett Road, D, were reviewed by OKHRHDC, during which much discussion centered around the size of the structure relative to the setting.

Commission Information: Tourism Committee is preparing a new video for Dennis and requests ideas.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 7, 2023, in the Town Hall, Prue Room, at 4:00 p. m.

Adjournment: 6 p. m. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rochelle.