

Dennis Historical Commission

Meeting: October 21, 2019

Location: Nickerson Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall, 685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660

Members Present: Bill Collins, Ken Van Tassell, Tim Scannell, Bob Poskitt

The Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM with a quorum present. The Minutes of the September 9, 2019, Meeting were approved as received.

Demolitions:

A demolition application for a structure at 109 Fisk St., West Dennis was received on October 9, 2019. Extensive changes have been made over the years to the original circa 1824 structure. The owner Dan Dignam and his contractor were present at the meeting to review their demolition application and address questions. A motion from Tim Scannell, seconded by Ken Van Tassell, was unanimously approved to not delay the demolition.

Old Business:

Plymouth 400 Brochure: Tim Scannell and Ken Van Tassell are working with the Dennis Tourism Committee and the Chamber of Commerce to place the Historic Site Guide onto the Dennis web page by January 2020.

Endangered Structures: Bob Poskitt reported that the Columns was sold on 10/3 to a real estate development group from Plymouth, 1620 Capital LLC. The owner of that company is associated with the Board of Preservation Massachusetts and is working with Dan Fortier on plans for the structure and site. Bob also reported on the noticeable exterior improvements to the Pillars on Hidden Shores Drive. Both properties were placed on Preservation Massachusetts' List of Most Endangered Historic Structures in MA last fall.

New Business:

Soldier's Field Marker: Bill Collins reported that the Dennis Village Improvement Society is requesting the Commission's non-objection to moving a historical marker on Soldier Field to an area of more visibility to the public. The marker signifies the Site of the Military Training Field for both the War of Independence and the War of 1812. Current location is on the far west end of the cemetery property at the corner of 6A and Old Post Rd. Discussion will continue at the November meeting.

Mass. Historical Commission Planning Grant: The Cape Cod Commission has encouraged DHC to apply for an MHC for a grant to update/digitize our Dennis historic property information. There was full agreement to proceed next year in applying for that grant along with whatever matching grants would be required from Community Preservation.

Other:

Dennis Port: Ken Van Tassell reported that the triangular shaped property at 684 - 694 Main St. in Dennis Port at the junction of Upper Country Rd and 28 was sold. Exxon is now responsible for the remediation to insure a toxin-free site. An Engineering Consultant is working with the new owner.

Captains' Row of West Harwich: The Cape Cod Commission gave unanimous support on Oct. 9, 2019, to nominate a one-mile area along Route 28 in West Harwich between the Herring River and the Dennis Port town line for critical planning and historic designation. The 43-acre proposed Captains' Row district contains 24 historic structures built between 1750 and 1914. Public hearings are planned for 10/22 and 11/14.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 4:00 PM in the Nickerson Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall, 685 Main St., South Dennis, 02660. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM. Respectfully submitted, Bob Poskitt.

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