



**Town of Concord, Massachusetts**  
**22 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742**

## **Concord Historical Commission Meeting Minutes 05-19-16**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Concord's Historical Commission held a public meeting in the Second Floor Conference Room at 141 Keyes Road, Concord starting at 7:00 P.M. Commission members Annette Bagley, Andrew Koh, Clair Gauthier, Diann Strausberg, and Geoffrey Taylor were present. Select Board Representative Alice Kaufman and DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen were also present.

Commission Member Electa Tritsch was not present for this meeting. Chair Geoffrey Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **CHC Preservation Awards**

Members noted that the awards ceremony would be held during the Select Board's meeting on June 20. Ms. Bagley updated the Commission on the awards and the planning to date for the award ceremony. She planned to begin publicizing the awards by sending an article to the Concord Journal and would notify the Town's Public Information Officer Sean Dugan so that the information can be sent out through the Town's channels as well.

### **Demolition Review Bylaw**

Ms. Kritzer had sent out a draft review application form for Members review prior to the meeting. Members briefly reviewed the form at this time and discussed the general process. Revisions were made to the draft at this time. Ms. Strausberg agreed to be the Member responsible for working with Ms. Kritzer on application reviews once the Bylaw was in action.

### **Archaeology Project Update**

Mr. Koh reported on the work underway by students to gather further information from the Brown Photography Archive on a possible Barrett Farm photo. His undergraduates were also considering applying to visit the University of Maryland to look at their archives as well. It was possible that students from Brandeis and Maryland would be collaborating on future archaeological projects in the future.

For the Barrett Farm project, a large report will be filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission in the next month or so.

Concord Academy planned to include the site in their learning lab next year and students were hoping to help with the digs on Fridays and Saturdays. Two areas of the six identified on the site were now done, including the area of the former racetrack. In the fall, Natural Resources planned to remove the hedgerows from the site and Mr. Koh had asked to be present to look for any artifacts during that work. They anticipated finding more components of Native American history at the site, including stone tools, as their work moved along the river. A prehistoric historian would be needed to investigate the finds and Brandeis Associate Professor Brian Donahue would be assisting the project. Mr. Koh noted that the Town needed to develop the infrastructure necessary to archive and study the found artifacts and Ms. Rasmussen noted that there could be space available at 37 Knox Trail, a building recently purchased by the Town.

### **Ball Benson House and Barn**

It was noted that work was again underway to try and find a home for the surviving elements of the Ball Benson House and Barn which were currently in storage containers at the Water Treatment Plant. The Architect for the project, Leonard Baum, and Antique Building Preservationist David Ottinger had both documented the building while it was being disassembled. Some of the information had been passed on to the Special Collections Department, while the rest was still in private hands. Ms. Tritsch, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Rasmussen and Ms. Kritzer were meeting with Mr. Ottinger on Wednesday morning at 9AM to view the documents that he had saved from the project and make arrangements to have them scanned for Town use. Members discussed how to approach the project to reassembly the Benson Barn House and questioned whether the open lot at the corner of Strawberry Hill and Barrett's Mill Road might be a future location for the structures. Members discussed potential uses for the buildings and how they could be a tool for experiential learning.

### **Historic House Marker Review (if any)**

No new house marker applications had been submitted at this time. Mr. Taylor agreed to write a letter to the Concord Journal as a reminder about the housing marker program. Ms. Gauthier agreed to take over the review of any future applications.

### **Discussion of Potential Change in CPA Surcharge**

Mr. Taylor reported that the Community Preservation Committee is looking into the possibility of increasing the local surcharge rate from 1.5% to 3%. Members discussed the diverse number of projects funded each year and the CPA target amounts. Members agreed that it would be nice to have additional funding available.

### **Review of Historic Signs**

The Commission had received a letter from the Robbins House Rivers and Revolutions Stewardship Group explaining that the historic signs at Peter's Spring Road and Brister's Hill were incorrect and asking that they be replaced with signs that include the correct information. Members discussed the letter and signs and agreed to invite the Group and Robbins House Director Maria Madison to meet with the CHC to discuss the signs. Members discussed other possible signs and whether there were other interested parties that should be part of this discussion.

### **Brief review of other ongoing projects**

It was noted that the Trustees of Reservations had received an NEH grant to support the construction of a new welcome center at the Old Manse. Originally, the new center was proposed to replicate a former barn on the property. The Trustees were moving ahead with a design at this time. Discussions were underway with Town staff and commissions but the actual design would be needed before the project could move forward.

It was noted that May 21<sup>st</sup> was Historic Home Sweet Home day at 9 Trustees of Reservation historic houses. The properties will be offering free entries from 10AM to 5PM on that day to kickoff the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trustees of Reservations. At the Old Manse, the day's activities would include a discussion with the North Bennett School craftsmen who reproduced Emerson's historic chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Strausberg moved to approve the minutes of March and April. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion and ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

### **Other business**

Ms. Gauthier asked if her term was expiring at the end of the month. Members asked that Ms. Kritzer look into the Commission Member's terms before the next meeting.

Ms. Bagley moved to adjourn. Mr. Koh seconded the motion and ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Kritzer  
Senior Planner

Minutes Approved on: June 9, 2016