

SWAMPSCOTT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING LOCATION: Virtual Meeting
Thursday, June 1, 2023
6:30 p.m.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	Nancy Schultz, Jonathan Leamon, Brad Graham, Ryan Judkins, Justina Oliver, Richard Smith, Kim Barry
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	Franceska O'Reilly, Jean Reardon
<u>Guest:</u>	Stephenie Neumann
1. <u>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER</u>	N. Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. <u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u>	<p>N. Schultz, R. Smith, and J. Leamon toured 35 Pitman Road and documented much of the interior. Demolition has been delayed until August 1, 2023. R. Smith and J. Leamon submitted a MACRIS form for the building.</p> <p>N. Schultz has been informed that the Commission will retain its \$4,000 budget for the next fiscal year.</p> <p>N. Schultz extended appreciation for work on the archives (J. Leamon) and Lilac Garden interpretive sign (J. Leamon, J. Oliver, K. Barry).</p>
3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>	J. Leamon moved to approve minutes from the May 4, 2023 meeting. R. Smith seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. <u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u>	<p>R. Judkins reported that the revolving fund balance remains unchanged (\$3,741.61). The general fund balance is listed as \$598.27, but that figure is subject to adjustment, as the general fund balance should be \$0. R. Judkins will investigate.</p> <p>N. Schultz has requested an invoice from the historical plaque sign maker but has not received a response.</p>

	<p>K. Barry will be submitting a report on the use of exhibit grant funds by the end of June. An invoice for archive transparencies (\$251.42) was submitted to the town for payment out of grant funds.</p> <p>J. Oliver will purchase supplies for the background for the ship model (watercolors, paper) and submit an invoice to be paid with exhibit grant funds. K. Barry estimates the fund has a balance of \$50.00, which should cover the cost of these supplies.</p>
<p>5. <u>299 SALEM STREET (GENERAL GLOVER HOUSE)</u></p>	<p>N. Schultz, Angela Ippolito (Planning Board), and David Grishman (Select Board) issued a letter to the site developer proposing a change in the development design to allow for the Glover house to remain on site.</p> <p>B. Graham raised concerns with the letter and the proposal, including: (1) the letter had the appearance of being issued on behalf of the Commission, although the Commission did not discuss the contents of the letter or hold a vote; (2) the letter referenced the developer's potential future projects, which the Commission had not discussed; and (3) on-site preservation creates issues with future house management/preservation and public access.</p> <p>R. Judkins voiced similar concerns about the letter issuance process (although the letter was well written), and agreed there are open questions about what happens if the house remains in private hands.</p> <p>K. Barry agreed that the Commission needs to be consulted if a document has the appearance of being issued on the Commission's behalf.</p> <p>N. Schultz stated that she did not view the letter as speaking on behalf of the Commission, or the Planning Board, or the Select Board.</p>

	<p>J. Leamon viewed the letter favorably, as he supports on-site preservation and sees the need for quick action.</p> <p>N. Schultz and J. Leamon noted the need to move quickly in order to save the Glover house, which is difficult if all actions must be discussed during the Commission's monthly meeting. B. Graham reiterated his call during the May 4, 2023 meeting to vote on a single preservation option (on-site preservation, disassembly and relocation, etc.) to avoid further delays.</p> <p>N. Schultz will request the final report on the Glover house from Structures North.</p> <p>K. Barry will be meeting with archaeology professionals to discuss proposals and cost of an archaeological survey of the site.</p>
6. <u>TRAILS & SAILS EVENT</u>	<p>Trails & Sails event is scheduled for September 15-24, 2023. J. Oliver stated that the Commission typically offers tours of Town Hall and a walking tour of the Olmstead District. K. Barry suggested that the Commission would need to submit information on these tours soon if they are to be included in Trails & Sails advertising. K. Barry will draft language on the Town Hall fishing exhibit for advertising. J. Oliver moved to host a Town Hall open house and two Olmstead tours on September 23. J. Leamon seconded. Unanimously approved.</p>
7. <u>PRESERVATION AWARDS</u>	<p>Property at 3 Hampden Street was nominated for a Preservation Award for the creative use of the East Asian style in landscaping the property. N. Schultz moved to approve the nomination. R. Smith seconded for the purposes of allowing discussion.</p> <p>B. Graham raised the concern that the landscaping is not tied to the history of Swampscott. R. Judkins suggested that</p>

	<p>giving the award absent a connection to town history devalues the award.</p> <p>N. Schultz raised the concern that rejecting the application could cause the Preservation Award program to lose momentum. J. Oliver stated that awards have been given for landscaping in the past, but that the Commission has also rejected nominations in the past. R. Smith suggested that the Commission needs to focus on the historical aspects of the town when issuing awards.</p> <p>A final vote was held on the nomination. N. Schultz voted in favor, all others opposed. The nomination was rejected.</p> <p>N. Schultz suggested that the Commission needs to be more proactive in nominating properties for Preservation Awards and community outreach about the Awards program.</p>
8. <u>ARCHIVES/EXHIBIT</u>	<p>K. Barry has been searching online and in the archives for materials to include in the exhibition on fishing. She is also looking for additional interviewees for podcasts.</p> <p>R. Judkins moved to grant J. Leamon the authority to spend any remaining monies in the general fund for archive-related expenses. B. Graham seconded. Unanimously approved.</p>
9. <u>FUTURE PRESERVATION ACTIONS</u>	<p>N. Schultz suggested that the Community Preservation Act could be a way for the Commission to be more proactive in its preservation goals. The CPA would provide funding for preservation projects (Salem has adopted the CPA and received over \$1,000,000 last year for preservation, open space, and housing projects). Adopting the CPA would require a town vote, and would result in increased taxes. If the Commission were to pursue the CPA, K. Barry and R.</p>

	<p>Smith suggested that the Planning Board and Open Space Committee be involved as well.</p> <p>B. Graham suggested that the Commission invite A. Ippolito to the next meeting to discuss her prior efforts to have Swampscott adopt the CPA, as her experience could inform the Commission's next steps. N. Schultz will invite A. Ippolito to the next meeting.</p> <p>N. Schultz suggested creating a list of the town's oldest properties, as well as a list of properties the Commission believes are most important for preservation. R. Judkins agreed to review deeds in the coming months to assist in that effort. N. Schultz specifically raised the issue of Blythswood. J. Oliver stated that there is a preservation provision in the Blythswood deed. B. Graham agreed to review that provision.</p>
10. <u>NEXT MEETING</u>	Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.. The Commission has agreed to continue to meet virtually via Teams.
	Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad W. Graham, Secretary
Swampscott Historical Commission