



6:00 PM – Call Meeting to Order

Present

Chairman Patrick Cox, David Paquin, Louise Tremblay, Linda Kawa, Henri Marchand, Rebecca Duda.

Absent

Mark Gosselin.

Chairman Cox opened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Mr. Cox asked the Commission if they wanted to take a vote to have Community Input be moved to first on the agenda. The Commission voted yes, unanimously.

Community Input

Demolitions

Kevin O'Brien from O'Brien Homes, asked to speak during Community input to explain to the Commission, that he owns the property at 231 Wheeler St and is looking to tear it down. Mr. O'Brien passed out a picture of the home. It also has a Methuen address on one side of the property located at 90 Wheeler St.

Linda Kawa asked if it is in Dracut or Methuen? Mr. O'Brien stated it is in Methuen, as the land goes. Years ago, Dracut and Methuen made some kind of deal that they split the property line down the center of Wheeler St. One side gets Methuen taxes, and one side gets Dracut taxes.

Linda Kawa asked if Mr. O'Brien had talked to the city of Methuen also. Mr. O'Brien stated yes, they came out and looked at it.

Mr. O'Brien explained he wants to take the house down. It has asbestos siding on it. Mr. O'Brien has been in contact with a company to look at that, so he knows what must be done before the house comes down.

Mr. O'Brien explained he is in the process of getting the building checklist with sign offs from the departments on this. He is not going to take it down right away, but the house is not going to stay as part of the project he is doing. He wanted to speak at the meeting to try to cover all the bases and explain about the house, instead of other people talking about it to the board.

Chairman Cox asked if any members had any Historic Significance on this house that rings a bell.

Mr. Marchand stated, this is the first time someone has come in for approval. In the past we mostly got it after the fact, it's usually just informational when we get it.

Mr. Paquin stated, we are only doing this tonight because he is on the fast track of getting this done with his sign offs needed. Mr. O'Brien passed around the new sign off form from the Building Department showing the newer way demo's get signed off.

Louise Tremblay made a motion that we agree the house has no Historic Value and that we give the approval for the sign off from the Building Department. Henri Marchand seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Open Space Committee

Chairman Cox explained, Mr. Sheppard was nice enough to get some materials for him on the National Historic Register and the process of what it takes. Mr. Cox explained the nomination committee from the Mass Historical Commission, who in turn sends it to the National only meets quarterly.

What he would like to do is move forward to get the Colburn House located at 1660 Lakeview Ave onto The National Historic register, as well as the Seed Shed from the Beaver Brook Farm.

Mr. Cox explained he would like to get the ball rolling and get the applications in. These buildings have already been assessed. We shouldn't have, to have the assessor come back out. That process should already have a few steps taken already.

Linda Kawa made a motion to move forward with the listing of the Colburn House at 1660 Lakeview Ave and the Seed Shed at Beaver Brook Farm to the National Register of Historic Buildings. Rebecca Duda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Beaver Brook Farm Update

Louise Tremblay explained at the last BBF meeting, Mr. Martin went over the handicap trails again and where they had planned for the parking.

Also, how much money was going to be needed for the design study. Ms. Tremblay explained this was presented to the Community Preservation Committee at their meeting.

Chairman Cox, talked also on BBFC explaining, they did a walk through looking into a couple of other options of parking. What we are going to submit is a couple of different options, the engineer is going to tell us what we can and what we cannot do. Linda Kawa asked how much space is out there.

Mr. Cox explained the entirety of the workshop. Louise Tremblay stated, they are going to take the workshop down.

Mr. Cox explained the committee received a letter from the Building Inspector stating no one can go into the seed shed to look at it. It's a huge insurance liability.

Communications

Mr. Marchand explained at the last meeting there were questions that came up with private properties and Historic Districts. He has done some research with some friends he worked with in Lowell from the Parks Preservation Trust. He has printed out some information on the Lowell Historic Districts, the acts, the guidelines, procedures, and some of the neighborhood districts among other things for future references. If anything comes up this would be a great resource for us to have. Mr. Cox thanked Mr. Marchand and stated yes, it's a good tool to have. If anyone wants a copy of the material he will email it to them.

Bills

Louise Tremblay submitted the bills that were paid by the accounting office on behalf of the Historical Commission. Henri Marchand made a motion to ratify the bills that were paid. David Paquin seconded the motion. The motion passed,

Treasurer's Report

Not available

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

New Business

No New Business to discuss.

Minutes

David Paquin made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15th, 2023, meeting. Henri Marchand seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

Henri Marchand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Louise Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next Meeting

April 19th, 2023.