

## Local Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023

TOWN CLERK  
2023 JUL 19 PM 3:44  
DUXBURY, MASS.

Attending: Pamela Campbell Smith, Evelyn Walker, Terry Vose, Jayne Talmage O'Farrell, Janet Ritch, Phil Tuck, Renee Mierzejewski, Georgia Taft Pye, Mike Faute

Members of the Public: Betsy Sullivan

Pamela Campbell Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. She announced that the Trustees for the Duxbury Free Library had decided that there was no need for them to put the Library building in a local historic district.

Pam then introduced Betsy Sullivan, chair of the Finance Committee, and Betsy spoke about the circumstance that changes to Town buildings, both exterior and interior, are vetted through Town Boards, Committees and Town Meeting for funding and plan approval. It is thus unnecessary for the Library to be in a Local Historic District. Although Betsy noted that the Local Historic District Commission has worked hard to make the rules and regulations for properties in local historic districts easier to work with, there is no guarantee that subsequent Commissions in years to come will operate in the same manner so the Town sees no need to do further preservation efforts for the historic buildings it owns. Betsy also addressed the problems with the submissions for Local Historic Districts that were done last year. Georgia Taft Pye mentioned that some of those issues were related to lack of support and information for the Commission from Town Boards and staff. She said Emily Hadley had been a big help in submitting the proposed historic district additions to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and that now there was a Planning Director with the hiring of Chris Ryan, it is hoped that the process will go more smoothly and with less lack of communication. She stated that the Commission is volunteers and that receiving some additional support from town staff could be extremely helpful. Betsy responded that with the current budgetary constraints, there would be no means of getting any additional staff support or assistance.

Pam brought up the questions of submissions for new Local Historic Districts for Town Meeting 2024. Janet Ritch mentioned that the owners of 620 Washington Street would like to place their property in a LHD. Pam suggested that we re-submit the application for the Bluefish River Fire House. Additional possible properties were discussed and Pam asked that we be ready to do assignments for writing the submissions at our next meeting.

Pam next mentioned that William Young has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Historic District Day. Jayne Talmage said that we could have the Alden House barn from 9 – noon for the September 9, 2023 event.

Pam announced that Janet Ritch will be getting off the Commission after many years of service and thanked Janet for all she had done over those years. She said that Jayne will become a full Commissioner. Phil Tuck will stay as an alternate and Mike Faute will join the Commission as a new alternate.

Pam said that the next meeting will be July 18, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.