

**Sturbridge Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2023
Center Office Building/Virtual**



APPROVED

Present:

Richard Volpe, Chair
Charles Blanchard
Barbara Search
Wally Hersee
Jean Bubon, Town Planner
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant
Gretchen Pineo, PAL
Laura Kline, PAL
Jennifer Doherty, Mass Historic - Virtual

R. Volpe called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Continued review of Phase II materials for the Community Wide Historic Preservation Plan

The Commission, J. Doherty and L. Kline discussed the edits that were made to the document.

C. Blanchard signed on at 10:39 am.

J. Doherty stated that it looks like they are heading in the right direction with the editing and reorganization of the plan and discussed some of the formatting that was changed.

J. Bubon stated that the dates in the plan for the Historic Committee may need to be adjusted and that they will need to track down what the dates were, the committee was very active for years and then petered out before it became active again.

W. Hersee arrived at 10:46 am.

C. Blanchard and B. Search stated that they would work together to figure out Historic Committee active dates.

J. Doherty stated that that some of the pictures and maps were too small and hard to read.

L. Kline asked the Committee what their preferences were for the listed order of organizations, currently listed in alphabetical order.

C. Blanchard stated that they should be ordered by how involved there are in historic preservation.

The Committee discussed the records and information kept by the Library and Town Clerks office. C. Blanchard stated that he has done work archiving for the library and the second floor is dedicated to historic.

C. Blanchard left the meeting at 10:53 am.

L. Kline, page 11, asked if the Economic Development and Tourism department was just one person. J. Bubon stated that yes.

B. Search asked about the CPC plan, stating that she has never seen it. J. Bubon stated that she will need to reach out to Penny Dumas. B. Search stated that she would follow up.

B. Search, page 18, asked about the mentioned visitor's center. J. Bubon discussed the history of the visitor's center that was built in the corridor with OSV, the Town lease expired so currently there is no visitor's center. Terry Masterson (Economic dev.) is working to get info out to the public on a new tourism website, and there are brochure racks at the Town Hall and Center Office Building.

B. Search, page 49, asked if the Rod & Gun club was owned by the Town. J. Bubon stated that it wasn't. The Committee discussed wording in this section, from "Town owed open space" to "Open space in the Town". L. Kline stated that she will rework the section to make it clearer.

R. Volpe stated that the document flows much better now and happy with the direction they are headed.

J. Doherty discussed the updated schedule for submission. Phase III will be due to the Planning Department April 14th. J. Bubon discussed next steps and the payment of the next invoice to PAL.

L. Kline stated that she appreciated the comments and feedback.

J. Bubon stated that she would check the Town Hall meeting room availability for scheduling the Community Forum.

Approval of Minutes

March 8, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 8, 2023 as written.

By: B. Search

2nd: W. Hersee

Vote: All in Favor (3-0)

Old/New Business

W. Hersee stated that he received a message from Carol Goodwin regarding the property at 505 Main Street. J. Bubon discussed the history of the property, stating that it had been altered a lot over the years and that there are structural issues. A former applicant wanted

to raze and rebuild the property, nothing has been going on with the building since and the former approvals should stand. B. Search asked if approval goes by site or owner. J. Bubon stated that in Sturbridge approval goes to the site. B. Search stated that she wants to take a look at the demo delay process. J. Bubon stated no demo delay was imposed by the Historic Commission for this property and discussed the future of the property and that Conservation had some concerns.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

By: R. Volpe

2nd: W. Hersee

Vote: All in Favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.