

SOUTHBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2021 4:30 PM

Remote Participation via Zoom Meets, Southbridge, MA

1. **Call to order**: The Southbridge Historical Commission (SHC) met on Saturday, January 30, 2021 by remote participation using Zoom Meeting platform. The SHC meeting was called to order by Chairman Arthur Martin at 4:35 p.m. In addition to Arthur, present for the meeting were Helen Boyle, Linda Langevin-Zonia, and Amanda Richards. Helen Lenti was in attendance by phone and joined at 4:59 p.m. Richard Sullivan was absent. Guest in attendance was Peg Dean the CDBG Coordinator for the town.
2. **Discussion on Message bulletin board**: Peg Dean, the CDBG Coordinator, explained that she was still waiting for Graphics Unlimited to get back to her with a quote on the Message Bulletin Board, which would be 1-sided and located in the Central Street Parking Lot. She had emailed Graphics Unlimited at the beginning of January and was waiting to hear back. She explained that Graphics Unlimited would try to visit the location to make a determination on whether or not the Message Board could be lit by solar power since the proposed location in the parking lot is behind a large building.

It was also explained that since Helen B. is employed by Graphics Unlimited, it would be conflict of interest for her to discuss this project and Helen would need to call the state's Ethics Commission to see what else she needs to do. Peg explained that Helen B. might need to fill out a disclosure form with the state explaining why it's a conflict of interest, to have her abstain from any voting, and to have it on record.

3. **Demolition Delay Bylaws**: The SHC asked Peg if she knew what the process is with regards to updating the Zoning Bylaws and if she knew who created the newest, updated version for the town. Whomever changed them, never asked for the SHC's input as far as what the SHC's role is and what the SHC does. Also, the SHC confirmed with Peg that the proposed Demolition Delay Bylaws would fall under General Government.

The SHC then discussed the amount of time a property owner would have to wait in order to legally build a new structure on that site, if they knocked down a structure without first obtaining a permit. The SHC changed the period of time from 2 years to 3 years. The SHC decided to make this change since the Town of Chelmsford had a 3-year period and the SHC thought it would be an appropriate amount of time. This section is located under the 'ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES' sub-section of the proposed bylaws.

The Commission also decided that it would have the date on the proposed Demo Delay Bylaws changed to reflect the corrections (Jan. 30, 2021) and the SHC members on the last page of the document would be updated. The SHC also discussed that a cover letter

would be drafted to the Town Manager, explaining why the SHC sought his input. These items would be corrected and ready for the next SHC meeting so they could be discussed, voted on, and approved during that meeting. The SHC would then decide how to have the proposed Demo Delay Bylaws signed by all members before mailing them to the Town Manager. Linda said that she would make the corrections, since she had the typed document in its entirety and Amanda would write the cover letter.

4. **Items not reasonably anticipated:** The SHC and Peg Dean discussed preservation money that was being offered by the Mass. Historical Commission and the application process that organizations must go through in order to try to attain those funds. The applicants must either be government agencies or non-profit organizations. Peg explained that there is also legislation called, “Adopt Community Preservation Act,” which might help the SHC later on down the road with preserving historical landmarks.

SHC members asked Peg if she could find out more info regarding 14 South Street (the former Vienna Restaurant and Inn). The SHC is specifically interested in when the property was last purchased and by whom. The SHC would also like to know what the plan is for the building since it is in poor shape and has looked like that for over a year.

Another building the SHC asked Peg for more information about was 70 Foster Street, the former Town Water Dept. building. The SHC is curious to know what the status is regarding the project and the windows, since the windows were to be replaced with more historically accurate ones a while ago, but instead are currently still boarded up. Arthur said he would like to invite the property owner of 70 Foster Street, Rick Clemence, to a future SHC meeting (March/April) to discuss the project and see if the SHC could be of any more help in getting the project completed.

The next meeting date was discussed for Thursday, Feb. 18th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The agenda would include having Peg Dean come back and discuss what she was able to find out regarding the message board and preservation money for the town; Demo Delay Bylaws discussion with cover letter and corrections to the bylaws; and meeting minutes for October 29th, November 20th, December 19th, December 28th, 2020, and January 23, and January 30, 2021.

5. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Helen B. to adjourn the meeting. Five were in favor. One absent. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Submitted by:

Amanda V. Richards, Secretary