

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Lois Abare, Jay McCronon, Peg Corbosiero, Guy Corbosiero, Mary Harrington, Gerry Harrington

Members Absent: Don O'Neil

Others Present: Justin Sultzbach, Town Manager, Brian Croteau, DPW Director, Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary,

Meeting called to order: 3:00p.m.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the November 9, 2022 regular meeting Abare/ P. Corbosiero 5-0 aye by roll call vote @ 3:03pm.

New Business:

Demolition of 54 Mechanic Street: Chairman Corbosiero has been informed that there is intention to tear down 54 Mechanic Street. The demolition permit has not been filed as of today's meeting. Mr. Newton will inform the Commission within 7 days of the filing, and the Commission will have 15 days to discuss and vote on the demolition. This item will remain on the agenda.

Electrical Lines: The Commission has continued interest in burying the electrical lines on the Common. The Town Manager and DPW Director are present to discuss this issue. It is understood that the homeowners will bear the cost of burying the lines from their homes to the transformers. It was suggested the first order of business should be to reach out to the homeowners and see if they are interested. Mr. Sultzbach suggested if there is interest, to do an informal MOA. Underground conduit would have to be run from the lines to the homes. Mr. Croteau stated if homeowners are willing to commit to the project then he can approach National Grid. There are a series of steps that need to be taken in order to come up with a total project cost. A work request number is the first step, then design, finally to estimating. Mr. Croteau feels all homeowners will need to be on board in order for National Grid to do pro-

ject. Mr. Sultzbach stated in his experience, projects like this can be costly. Ms. M. Harrington stated the Commission has several accounts with the town that could potentially be used as funding sources along with a Robinson-Broadhurst grant. Mr. Sultzbach stated that potential CPA funds could be used as well. Mr. Croteau is willing to take the lead on the project as he has direct contacts with National Grid. Members of the Commission are concerned over the appearance and decay of the Old Centre Common. The issues include the electrical lines, the trees, and the amount of traffic, especially big/dump trucks. Ms. M Harrington asked if there was a way to limit the tucks driving through the district. Currently, there is no By-law limiting that. It may be an issue for town meeting vote or possibly a MA DOT standard. Mr. McCronon is willing to plant trees the Commission would like to see. Ms. Abare stated this could possibly be declared a historic road. Ms. M. Harrington would like to see the Commission's financial information. Ms. Sroczynski has reached out to the town accountant and did not receive the information. Mr. Sultzbach will get information to Commission.

Old Business:

Brownfield Grants: There is no new information on this item.

Electrical Lines on Old Centre Common: This item was discussed under new business.

Wildlife Habitat Replacement on Militia Field: This was a proposed item for the Robinson-Broadhurst Grant. The application was not submitted for the 2022 round of funding. It will be submitted for 2023. Ms. Sroczynski suggested getting all bids/estimates by the end of October for the November 2023 deadline so application can be done timely this year.

New Plantings on Old Centre Common: This item will be included in the Robinson-Broadhurst applidcation as well.

Historic District Signs: This item is under review.

Historic Commission Communication: Mr. Corbosiero will follow up with Mr. Sultzbach regarding contact information.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for February 8, 2023.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn Abare/McCronon 3-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 3:51 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 3:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:
