

Approved 3-8-23

Winchendon Historic Commission

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**  
**Via Remote Participation**

**Members Present:** Lois Abare, Jay McCronon, Peg Corbosiero, Guy Corbosiero, Don O'Neil, Gerry Harrington

**Members Absent:** Mary Harrington

**Others Present:** Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary, Jill Sackett, Master Plan Implementation Committee Member

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

**Minutes:**

*Motion to approve minutes of the January 11, 2023 regular meeting O'Neil/ P. Corbosiero 6-0 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 permit has still not been filed for. The Commission can either have a special meeting when permit is filed for or appoint a member to sign off on permit. The Commission does not object to the building being torn down. Member O'Neil has offered to sign off on permit as he is at Town Hall daily. *Motion to have member O'Neil sign off on demolition permit of 54 Mechanic Street, Abare/Harrington, 6-0 aye by roll call vote.* A special meeting can always be called if needed.

**CPAEC:** Mr. Sultzbach is looking for a letter of support for the upcoming Special Town Meeting, where he plans on introducing the Community Preservation Act. If this passes an additional 3% tax will be added to resident's existing property taxes. The for \$100,000 of valuation will be exempt. There has been talk about Robinson-Broadhurst potentially subsidizing some of the tax. If the vote passes work will also need to be done on the by-laws. *Motion to offer letter of support for CPA, G. Corbosiero/O'Neil 6-0 aye by roll call vote.*

Master Plan Update: Ms. Jill Sackett is in attendance to brief the Commission on the topics the Master Plan Committee feels the Commission should be in charge of during the updating process. Below is the list of items:

1. Reexamine Winchendon's Reconnaissance Report. The last time this was done was 2010. The Commission will examine this and it will be placed on next month's agenda.
2. Be proactive about preserving historic structures. Ms. G. Harrington will work on list and report back to Commission in June. MACRIS will be a valuable too in list preparation.
3. Implement preservation restrictions on historic properties to protect historic structures from being demolished or excessively altered.
4. Find a way to prevent "demolition by neglect."
5. Encourage Commission members to seek out training in modern preservation tools. This could be in person or on line.

Ms. Sackett knows this will be an ongoing process and will check back with the Commission over the next several months.

**Old Business:**

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

Electrical Lines on Old Centre Common: Mr. McCronon has started reaching out to neighbors to discuss the underground service. So far two neighbors said they would be interested.

Wildlife Habitat Replacement on Militia Field: There is no new information on this item.

New Plantings on Old Centre Common: Mr. Corbosiero will be discussing this at an upcoming BOS meeting, and will update the Commission in March.

Historic District Signs: This item is under review. Ms. G. Harrington has provided the Commission with examples of signs.

Historic Commission Communication: Mr. O'Neil will update web page.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for March 8, 2023.

**Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn O'Neil/Abare 6-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:07 pm.*

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:07pm.**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jenelle Sroczynski  
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:

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