

Town of Lunenburg Historical Commission

Rebecca Lantry, Chair
Richard McGrath, member
Cullen Dwyer, Clerk
Jennifer Sanderson, member
Bill Lakso, member



Meeting Minutes April 2nd, 2019, 6:30PM, Ritter Building 960 Massachusetts Avenue

ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

Meeting Opened by Chair Lantry at 6:37 with all members present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Minutes for March 5th, 2019, were read and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The building inspector contacted Mr. McGrath regarding demolition of the barn at 4 Townsend Road. McGrath confirmed the Historical Commission had approved it for demolition.

PRESENT BUSINESS:

78 Elm Street: Chair Lantry said that she had visited the property under the auspices of an interested buyer, and had learned much about the house and the owner's efforts to sell it. The house was in decent shape with many original historical features left intact. The water service had been shut off before the house was abandoned, so there was no damage to the pipes. The house had also undergone many curious additions and renovations over the years. In Lantry's opinion the house required much work to make it livable, but retained many attractive architectural and historical features. Contrary to the selling agent's request, the current owner had not cleaned the house or removed any of the former owner's belongings, leaving it in an unappealing state. Apparently 38 interested buyers had looked at the property, and one offered \$150K cash, which was not accepted. The barn was in savable condition, but in need of attention. The current owner had not released it for Tanner Cole to remove and restore elsewhere in town, believing its removal would make the property harder to sell.

This report confirmed the Commission's suspicions that the owner had not made any "Bona fide, reasonable attempts" to "sell, preserve, move, rehabilitate or restore said building" as required by the Demolition Delay Bylaw. Mr. Lakso motioned to draft a letter informing the building official of the Commission's position on the matter. McGrath seconded and the motion carried. Dwyer agreed to write and send the letter.

Community Preservation Act: Lantry noted that the time had elapsed for new warrant articles for the spring town meeting, and any action on the CPA would probably have to wait until the fall.

Lunenburg Ledger Articles: Bill Lakso reported that the replacement weathervane for Town Hall was complete and delivered. He presented photographs of the new item, and also the article he had written on it for the Lunenburg Ledger.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Old Primary School: The APDC had arranged a site visit of the Old Primary School at 2PM on Thursday April 4th, and Historical Commissioners were invited to attend.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for May 7th, 2019

Meeting adjourned: at 7:33