



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

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Written correspondence should be addressed to:
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Minutes of the September 25, 2023 Zoom Meeting, 5 pm

Meeting participants: Donna Wiley, chair, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

The revised minutes of July 17 were unanimously approved.

Center School Brian Domina (town administrator) circulated drafts of a Purchase and Sale Agreement (P&SA) and a Land Development Agreement (LDA) to Donna Wiley and Judy Markland. Donna shared the documents with the Historical Commission for comments.

WHC members agreed that the LDA, although recommended by town counsel, seems onerous and potentially discouraging for the buyer. It also conflicts with many provisions of the draft preservation restriction document, which has already been approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Selectboard.. Virtually all of the protections for the building raised in the LDA are covered in the preservation restriction, which will be attached to the deed in any case. Both Donna and Judy will be present at the Select Board meeting and will advocate against use of the LDA.

North Street area -- Judy Markland circulated a draft data sheet for North Street which is required for an area listing on MACRIS. It lists all the properties along the road and their Form numbers where available. A few questions about required terminology and its limitations were raised.

The next steps are to prepare a narrative architectural summary of the properties and structures in the proposed area, areas well as an historical narrative . Judy suggested that short summaries of the history of various businesses and farms written by individuals could be collected and shaped into the historical narrative. .Judy will draft an outline of the historical narrative so that WHC members may volunteer to help draft segments.

Other Business ... Mapping archeologically-sensitive areas Alan and Allison have not made significant progress on the project but will meet soon to sort things out.

Town draft solar plan --- Judy Markland noted that she had commented to the authors of the plan that they might want to consider a section on placing solar projects on tobacco barns,

since the preponderance of tobacco barns have an east/west orientation with a south-facing roof. There might be an added benefit for owners to improve the roofs since they could earn some money from solar production. This might not be possible in every case but it should be a consideration if the town is trying to encourage solar energy production. If the action plan incorporates this suggestion, there might be a role for the Historical Commission to help facilitate a program to further adoption.

Library letter --- Bob Klinger wrote on behalf of the Library Trustees to report progress with the rehabilitation of the Library's front steps and entranceway.

The next meeting will be on October 16 at 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan McArdle