



## Chelmsford Historical Commission (CHC)

### October 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes

**Members in Attendance:** Deb Taverna-Chairman, Brian Stripp Vice-Chairman, Fred Merriam, Linda Prescott, Jeffrey Merrill, Ken Lefebvre-Select board liaison, Deidre Connolly-Planning Board Liaison

Ms. Taverna called the meeting to order, 7:30 PM

1. **Public Input:** None
2. **Chelmsford Land Trust Conservation-** 1 Bartlett Street- Stone Wall- Mr. Dale Williams presented information for the repair of the wall. He noted that they had hired Mr. Phelan, a structural engineer from Westford to advise them. The project will take down the wall a repair it with the same stones. The foundation will be properly done. There were questions re: the taking of the steps and not replacing them. Mr. Williams noted that there was not a cross walk and would pose a danger as the stairs really go nowhere.  
**MOTION:** Ms. Prescott moved to approve the repair of the stone wall and the removal of the stairs, seconded by Mr. Stripp and so voted. **Motion carries.**
3. **Pre-Demolition Requests:**
  - a. 314 Dunstable Road- Ms. Taverna noted that the inventories were finished and received from David Guthrie and sent to the members. Mr. Merriam noted that there were errors in some of the wording. Ms. Prescott noted that she would send an update to Mass. Historical with the corrections.
  - b. Ms. Taverna noted that there had been no official vote on the demolition of 314 Dunstable Road. **MOTION:** Ms. Prescott moved to approve the demolition of 314 Dunstable Road, seconded by Mr. Merriam, and so voted. **Motion carries.**
  - c. Ms. Taverna shared the letter that was written to Town Manager Paul Cohen re: The Historical Commission's concerns in the way the demolition of the house at 314 Dunstable Road occurred. She also shared a registered letter from Bill Harvey re: the same concerns. Ms. Taverna noted that Mr. Harvey did not agree that the minutes reflected what was said, but she reiterated that the minutes were accurate.

4. **House Signs, National Register Signs, District House Signs:**

Mr. Stripp noted that he had the information for:

84 High Street

19 Billerica Road

26 School Street

He will get the signs for these three homes.

There was some discussion re.

7 Ripley Street

48 Washington Street

Ms. Prescott said she would investigate these two properties as she thought they were done.

There was some discussion re: round signs and square signs. The square signs were done for the bicentennial and some owners feel they were historic and wished to keep their square signs. Mr. Merrill noted that he could reproduce the square signs.

37 Dunstable Road-Square

160 Middlesex Street- looking for sign.

5. **Budget:** no change

6. **Emails, Telephone Calls, Letters:**

- Nicole Helms – shooting a Sr. thesis for the Film and Video program at Massachusetts College of the Art and design in Boston. Ms. Helms is looking for the use of historic houses.
- There was some question re: the demo of 236 Groton Road, the demolition permit was signed off on and demolition completed.

7. **Certified Local Government**

- Ms. Prescott presented the application form and noted that there were many steps and processes to go through. The LCG app is looking for professionals. The application is long. She noted that there is money available to LCGs. She will send copies of the application to the other members.

8. **Historic Preservation-** Cemetery Tour coming up

**9. Review Demolition by Neglect**

- Ms. Taverna noted that she wondered if there was any way to get money to help those who need to repair and restore the homes that look like they are demo by neglect.

**10. Meet Your Ancestors Night-**

Ms. Prescott outlined the program and requested help from the Commissions members as “Grave diggers” (tour guides)

- Saturday, October 30, 2021, 6:30-Last tour goes out at 7:30
- Still in need of “Rev. Fiske” and 6 more “gravediggers” (guides)
- Children under 11 not allowed

**11. Approval of Minutes**

- MOTION: Ms. Prescott moved to accept the minutes of September 14, 2021, as amended seconded by Mr. Merriam and so voted.

**12. Set Agenda for November 9, 2021**

**MOTION:** Mr. Stripp moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Prescott and so voted.

Ms. Taverna closed the meeting at 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy A. Metz, Clerk