



# Attleboro Historical Commission

Government Center – 77 Park Street  
Attleboro, Massachusetts, 02703



Minutes – October 1, 2020

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**Due to current COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held both in-person, at the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, and via Zoom video conferencing.**

## **Regular Members:**

In-person: Marian Wrightington (Chair), Brian French, Bette Fuller, Rachel Killion

Zoom: Bill Lewis

## **Alternate Members:**

In-person: Len Yutkins

Zoom: Brian Hatch, Chris Frappier

**Guest:** none

Len Yutkins acting as Regular Member in the absence of Jerry Raposa

Brian Hatch acting as Regular Member in the absence of Brian Ludwig

Meeting called to order by Chair, Marian Wrightington at 6:42 PM

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion made by Bette Fuller to accept the minutes from the September 3, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Brian French. Passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

**Attleboro Historic Preservation Society** –working to put together 2020-2021 quarterly programming that will work with current pandemic restrictions.

**Schoolhouse Conditions** – Muggsville: Home Depot is interesting in helping with the project and will consider working with us after pandemic subsides; however, we may need to seek help sooner due to deterioration. Maybe Carpenter's Union will still offer support?

**Zoning and Planning Notices** – nothing to report

**Attleboro Land Trust** – Bill continues to work with AHS students but it is more challenging with current restrictions, he dropped off seeds to them. Hike Attleboro: getting ready for signs along Park St. route. Phase 2 is mapped out, hoping to include historic

points of interest; Brian H. has asked us for suggestions. He will send us a map (Riverfront Dr. – Willett School) so we can see the route and offer our suggestions.

**Burial Grounds** – Solomon is good; Chris is planning a cleanup at Thayer for long weekend, maybe October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Switch Tower** – no new information.

**Wolfenden Smokestack Replica** – sign is at DPW and looks beautiful. Lighting is on order; they are LED and therefore energy efficient. Approached Mayor about electricity. Hoping for installation by the end of the month if all goes well.

**Preservation Awards** – 2019 awards will be held in May 2021 along with the 2020 awards. No new nominations.

**Depot Canopy** – no one has responded to letter about potential long-term damage.

**Donation Form** – previous question posed: Are we exempt from the City process of disposing of AHC property? Brian F. checking with Councilor Sara-Lynn Reynolds.

**Postcards** – Chris has posted on Etsy 4 postcards for \$3.00 (minus Etsy fee).

**1131 Oak Hill Ave** – Bill L. met with owner at the property, little architectural significance left. Does not believe it is an 1820s house? Brian H. said property has not come up at a Conservation Commission meeting yet. Current owner had previous owner write a letter stating that there is nothing left historical in the building. We would still like to do more research; Brian H. will look into title search. Demolition application is being held.

**S. Main Street Arch** – Brian F. spoke with Ron Morgan who assured that comments regarding mortar will be taken into consideration.

**Evelyn Silva Gallery (Hill-Roberts Elem)** – Ree Clarke's paintings are now installed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Historic Corridor (Newport Ave.)** – Jerry T. is interest in establishing a historic corridor along Newport Ave. There is no Local Historic District Commission in Attleboro (separate from AHC). Marian will encourage Jerry T. to talk to neighbors to see how they felt about it.

**MHC Survey & Planning Grant** – current round submissions are due by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Demolition Applications:** 345 Smith Street (secondary building) and 261 Pike Ave applied for demolition permits, neither was on our list. However, 261 Pike Ave. maybe the old Bearcroft Station. Marian will contact the owner about photo-documenting the property.

## **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

464 Newport Avenue cut down large tree growing out of foundation. Suggested Jerry T. reach out to new owner.

Marian wrote a letter to Principal Bill Runey regarding keeping the Bombardier name and school colors.

Marian spoke with occupant of “old” Farmer’s School house on North Ave. and he reported that the chain and pulley (for the bell) are still in the attic.

Watson-Newell is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Received donation from Tom and Rita Turgeon; several AHC publications and newspapers.

Next Meeting – November 5, 2020 (will ask AAIM if we can meet there again)

Adjournment – 8:16 PM