



Attleboro Historical Commission

Government Center – 77 Park Street
Attleboro, Massachusetts, 02703



Minutes – March 2, 2023

Held at Attleboro Public Library – 6:30 PM

Regular Members: Marian Wrightington (chair), Brian French (vice-chair), Bette Fuller, Rachel Killion, Jerry Raposa, Jerry Turcotte

Alternate Members: Brian Hatch, Diane Mangiarotti

- Diane Mangiarotti acting as Regular Member in place of Brian Ludwig

Meeting called to order by Brian French at 6:31 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion was made by Jerry Turcotte to accept the minutes from the February 2, 2023. Seconded by Jerry Raposa, passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Attleboro Historic Preservation Society – February 22nd (Wed) program is at the Arts Museum for their centennial; and March 16th is by Marian Wrightington for the DAR & House 300th anniversary. April event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 29th at the Old Town Congregational Church in North Attleborough presented by Dr. Samuel Forman on the 1774 Solemn League and Covenant document.

Schoolhouse Conditions –

-Muggsville: exterior complete. Waiting to hear from Jeremy Guay on sign and interior furniture.

-District 17: Jeff D. has been delayed due to injury. Jim Hanley will have extra copies of the key made and will still keep an eye on it. Jason Parenteau will see if the solar light originally obtained for Muggsville will work at Dist. 17.

Planning and Zoning Notices – 42 County Street design changed, will now be a 5-story building.

Attleboro Land Trust – Brian H. working with Transformative Development Initiative Program (TDI). Looking for grants for downtown. Would like Dist. 17 schoolhouse to be along the Shaw-Denham Memorial Forest hike. Looking to improve a trail from Locust Valley golf course to Audubon trail at La Salette.

Burial Grounds – no new information to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Switch Tower – no new information to report

Depot Canopy – Still waiting for 1st phase of work to begin this summer.

PAL Report Update – waiting to hear back from PAL on our comments.

Historic Corridor (Newport Ave.) – be on the lookout for signage from other communities that have done something similar so that we can show examples to the municipal council.

Preservation Awards – Municipal Council chambers have been booked for May 4th from 6:00-8:00 PM for awards. Will ask mayor about speaking. Working on getting someone to open/close City Hall for us.

Membership – Andy McGuire may have to resubmit letter to Mayor DeSimone.

Supply Request – all supplies have come in.

Hill-Roberts Elementary –

-Evelyn Silva Gallery: Marian spoke with the principal, Evan Chelman, we will no longer be responsible for hanging artist in the gallery. Jerry suggested one panel be used for historic South Attleboro photos that can be changed less frequently.

-Toll House Mural: Principal Chelman will have staff do research on the mural. They took a panoramic picture before it was painted over.

Downtown Plan – the revised letter was sent to all Members for review. The Sun Chronicle will allow the length, but it may or may not include all our names. Members were asked if they wanted their name with the letter in the paper.

YES = Gary Demers, Brian French, Bette Fuller, Rachel Killion, Jerry Raposa, Blake Reynolds, Marian Wrightington, Len Yutkins

NO = Brian Hatch, Diane Mangiarotti

Not present = Brian Ludwig, Kevin Smith

- Jerry Turcotte made a motion to publish the final version of the position letter for the 135 County Street building (Attleboro High School) in the Sun Chronicle with names, if members choose, and the Sun Chronicle allows for space. Seconded by Marian Wrightington. 6 in favor, 1 against.

By-Laws –

- Jerry Turcotte made a motion to accepted the By-Law changes as presented. Seconded by Bette Fuller. Pass unanimously.

Rachel will send out the amended document to all members and the city.

NEW BUSINESS

Demolition permit for 36 Fischer St. was released, Marian and Rachel have previously photo-documented.

Demolition permit for 10 Coleman Ave. was released, not historically significant.

Brian French was notified of a house, 24 Benjamin Dr., that the previous owner says is a 1700s house. Not on MACRIS and appears it was missed in previous surveys. More documentation is needed – not in danger of demolition.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Bishop Feehan is working on two projects, but will not impact anything historic.

The book A Passion for Preservation by Katherine Warren was recommended as good reading for the board. Diane borrowed the book.

Vincent Luti sent a booklet about John New, a 18th century stone carver and his known stones in Attleboro cemeteries. Now stored in AHC office.

Next Meeting – April 6, 2023 @ APL – 4th floor

Adjournment – 8:03 PM