



# Attleboro Historical Commission

Government Center – 77 Park Street  
Attleboro, Massachusetts, 02703



Minutes – March 4, 2021

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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, Brian Ludwig

## **Alternate Members:**

In-person: Jerry Turcotte, Len Yutkins

## **Guest:**

In-person: Erica McAvoy

Zoom: Blake Reynolds

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

Meeting called to order by Chair, Marian Wrightington at 6:36 PM

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

## **REPORTS**

**Attleboro Historic Preservation Society** – working to put together some 2021 programming that will work with current pandemic restrictions; TDB.

**Academy:** Marian and Brian French met with Mayor on March 3, 2021 about having to pass on MHPP Grant due to COVID-19 constraints. Agreed it would not be a good idea to resubmit for 2021, but consider for 2022.

Also at the meeting with the Mayor, he agreed we should submit for a budget for fiscal year 2022.

**Schoolhouse Conditions** – Muggsville: Jeremy Guay (AHS Career and Tech Ed. Director) will contact Jason Parenteau about covering broken window with plexiglass. Jason expects to do it when the weather improves.

Dist. 17: Jerry T. and Brian F. discovered a window and back door were open. Jim Hanley was contacted and they were secured. Later, the door was again found unlocked. A neighbor reported that it was unlocked most of the summer. There are ATV tracks/path nearby. No vandalism was noted. Jerry will contact the custodian at Hill-Roberts that has the key and keep an eye on the building.

Dist. 10: (Anderson property on Read St) asked if Gary Demers was still interested in moving it to Willett School. Not moving it. Willett will be getting a greenhouse from AHS.

**Zoning and Planning Notices** – nothing new to report; 868 Pleasant looks like they may be getting ready to do something; trees removed and there is a dumpster. Old High School on Country Street – no new news.

**Attleboro Land Trust** – has 2 college interns working on Barrows Property. Will be live streaming on Facebook.

**Burial Grounds** – nothing to report

**Postcards** – Chris Frappier sold out of original 10 packets; wants 50 more packets to restock.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Switch Tower** – nothing to report; hoping to find a college student to write National Register nomination (had a hopeful prospect, then COVID happened). Erica McAvoy offered to look into it.

**Wolfenden Smokestack Replica** – When Marian and Brian F. met with the Mayor on March 3<sup>rd</sup> they let him know that we had the lights. Mayor agreed we can have them hooked up when the weather permits and Parks Dept. can do the work.

**Preservation Awards** – Rachel and Brian L. will consider some type of 2020/2021 program; maybe outside, later in the year or some type of recognition without full program?

**Depot Canopy** – Brian F. talked with Jim Hawkins; MBTA told Jim due to COVID everything is in “crisis mode” and nothing will happen this year. Brian F. suggested a temporary cover, Jim will check with them.

**Donation Form/Procedure** – at the meeting with the Mayor it was discussed that if a donation is worth less than \$5,000 we can accept/discard what we want and let the Mayor know what we keep. If the donation is worth greater than \$5,000 we must contact the Mayor and City Council. Nothing in writing yet.

Marian (personally) was given items from the Nerney Family (Knobby Krafters). She is donating some to Gary Demers, and others to AAIM & AHC in memory of Ruth Nerney.

Someone left an old AHS school report from 1994 by Ryan Browning on the history of the Attleboro Fire Department in Marian’s box. The report was well done and documented.

- A motion was made by Better Fuller to accept the report on the History of the Attleboro Fire Department for the AHC archives. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Marian will let the Mayor know that we have acquired the report.

Two deteriorating historic samplers done by Abigail and Horatia Capron were sent to the AHC. They are in poor condition and we do not have the resources to preserve them.

- A motion was made by Brian French that the best repository for the samplers would be in Marian Wrightington's Capron House where they were made. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

The items AHC recovered from the Highland Country Club clubhouse are still being stored in the clubhouse. The Mayor says we can get them anytime. Marian and Brian F. will see about going back for them.

**1131 Oak Hill Ave** – Garage has been torn down. House is still standing, no word from Conservation Commission.

**Historic Corridor (Newport Ave.)** – nothing new to report

**464 Newport Ave** – old mantels were removed/discarded

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Membership** – Guests: Eric McAvoy and Blake Reynolds are interested in joining the Commission; they will send letters of interest to the Mayor.

**Briggs Hotel** – Owners are considering ideas to incorporate historic photos on exterior and their architect is looking at Sun Chronicle images. Marian will contact them again to see about previewing images they have chosen.

**198 South Main St.** – no new information; but it has sold.

**Evelyn Silva Gallery** – (Hill-Roberts Elem.) Ree Clarke's pictures will hang until June 2021.

**323 Tiffany Street** – has been photo-documented. Some artifacts were salvaged.

**697 Park Street** – has been demolished; it was photo-documented before demo. Some artifacts were salvages.

**41 Summer Street** – applied for a demolition permit; deteriorating industrial building not on our list.

**New High School Committee** – Carla Hodges from AHS contacted Marian about ideas for new Attleboro related names for the 4 houses at the high school. Marian gave her some Attleboro books titles to look through for names.

**PAL Report** – for Route 1 Corridor improvements states that it will not be impacting historic properties.

## **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

Marian was contacted by a homeowner "Joe" who was looking for grant/funding to save his carriage house. She gave him the name of Historic New England to see if they had grants.

Next Meeting – TBD 2021

Adjournment – 8:00 PM