

## Heritage Commission

October 20, 2020

### Final Minutes<sup>4</sup>

Members Present: John Merkle, Chairman, Julie Gilman, Select Board Rep., Jay Myers, Vice Chair, Bill Campbell, John Grueter, Planning Board Rep., Maura Fay, Treasurer, Dave Sharples

Call Meeting To Order: John Merkle, Chairman, called meeting to order at 12:30 pm via ZOOM.

Business: Approval of the September 15, 2020 minutes. Bill abstained because he did not get a copy of the minutes. John made a few changes. Julie then made a motion to approve as amended. Jay seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Next on the agenda is the Black Heritage Pocket Park update. Maura stated she did not have a lot to update. She missed the last meeting because of work. She said they met on September 24th and the group is still discussing the focus of the potential of the park monument memorial and what it might look like. Some of the conversation stems around whether or not Swasey Parkway will be closed to car traffic or not and how that impacts access points to the central site. This is one of the questions that will have to be answered at some point. They are continuing to talk with Swasey Trustees and they will meet again in December. Julie said she had a comment about the parkway being closed and it has not been decided by the Select Board yet. One of the items in the trust when the property was given to the town is that it is supposed to be open for pleasure vehicles.

The next item on the agenda is the Park/Cass Streets Heritage District public presentation on October 28, 2020. John thanked Jay and Maura and Barbara for doing a great job. Jay said Barbara was very instrumental in this and he is very grateful for her work. John said their next goal is that they are meeting on the 28th at 6:30 pm and there is some work to do between now and then. Jay said some of the work and he is looking at the presentation, there were about six or seven slides he had shared previously and then Maura had added some super pictures to improve the presentation. Maura said she thinks it would make sense to go through the document and decide who wants to take apart and she then pulled the slides up for the members to see. On the first slide, Julie said she thought they should add some more streets and Maura added some. John said that slide two looked fine and asked Julie to take on this part of the presentation. Maura asked Julie if she wanted to add a slide that said what a Historical Resource was and Julie thought that would be a good idea. Jay said he was thinking of maybe an update of several projects that the Heritage Commission has done, as well as ongoing projects. Julie said it would probably take a couple of slides to show what they have done. She said also that maybe she could find a couple of pictures to go on to it. The definition of a Historical Resource is not that long. Maura thinks this is a good idea. Jay suggested a slide showing what the commission is doing in terms of other projects like the former dam site,

the Winter Street Cemetery. Julie suggested the restoration of preservation and the Park Street Survey. John said the Park Street Survey is part of the town wide survey. Maura will add everyone on the shared contributors so they can access the slides and make changes. Julie will be talking about slides two through five. Slide six is the map. Maura and John will share this slide. John said he is not sure how many people are going to look at the documents before the 28th, but it is quite clear the document that was used to produce the survey is the same one that was used to do the evaluation on the Historic District. It says this on the document itself. John said anything green on the map is considered contributing to the district and it is pretty much 95% of it. John said they might actually want to name the streets that are impacted by this. It is hard to see them on the slide. Bill suggested they describe the key at the beginning because you cannot read it. Slide seven Jay will do. When he drafted this at the beginning, he was just pulling from the document. Some of it appears also on the postcard. Jay will also talk about slide eight. Slide nine has a graphic on it and Julie said the graphic is looking a little COVID like. Everyone thought that was funny. Maura said she could search for a different graphic with less hands. She said she just wanted to get that community feel. Maura will search for one with less hands. Slide nine will be John Grueter because he is the Planning Board Rep. John Merkle said that there is a process where it actually has to go to the town for a vote. Julie said yes to institute having the neighborhood district. Maura said that all the members will be on the Q&A portion. Jay asked if they should have John lead this. John said he would be the leader for the Q&A and discussion portion. Julie suggested after the commission does a little editing on the slides, to try it out on your spouse or neighbor. Maura thinks this is a good idea. Bill asked what the difference is between this and a Historic District. Maura said she thinks this is the most pressing question that people will have. John said it is important for the people to read the narrative on the survey because it explains how everything developed and why it should be cherished. Jay said that during the presentation, they should just stick to the basics and it is really just meant to set the table for the discussion.

Dave Sharples asked John, the Chairman, if he could ask a question. His question is about timing because it was mentioned going to the Planning Board. He asked if the commission was thinking 2022 going before the voters because he said 2021 is not likely. He said there is really a back up at the Planning Board. John M. said the commission is not thinking 2021. Dave said this makes him feel better. Maura said this was a google slide presentation and she is going to share the link with all members so everyone will have access to it and edit.

John Grueter asked if everyone is well aware of this in the neighborhood. Is there a sense of how many people in that neighborhood are for or against. John M. said he does not know but postcards were sent out.

Julie said the next subject of discussion is the budget. She said the last couple of years they have been swapping over whether the HDC or the HC uses the CLG Grant opportunity. Because they had it in the HDC last year for some reason they had to leave the matching grants in the HDC for this year. She said they can submit their letter of interest to the Division of Historical Resources for their ideas for a letter of intent for what they might want to do. She said the HDC is interested in doing a workshop on the repair and restoration of your old wood windows. This is going to cost around \$3,000 to \$4,000. At the same time, they can do a survey. Julie said she thought about resurveying the downtown waterfront commercial historic district only because they have lost so much there. Jay said he is in favor of surveying the

waterfront. Julie asked if they wanted to do this or another survey. John M. said the waterfront district is a national district. Julie said after the letter of intent, the DHR tells you whether they are interested in you going forward with an application. At that time, the commission should decide if there are any dollars from the trust fund to go towards it. She said that when they first started there were nine communities and now there are almost thirty. It is not really a budget thing, but it is a timely thing because they have to do the letter of intent. Jay asked if there was a deadline for the letter of intent. Julie said it is in a couple of weeks. John M. said he would like to look at that first town wide survey, the mapping survey and see what other area there is. Julie asked the members to take a look at the town line mapping survey that is on the HC website and see which area is of more interest to them and get back to her by the end of the week. John M. said that he will drive around because he has not been to some of these neighborhoods in a long time. John M. asked if there was any other business. John G. said that he printed out the public notice and the link is on there to the ZOOM meeting.

With no further business, John made a motion to adjourn. Julie said so moved. Bill seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary