

**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

BOARD/COMMITTEE: HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: AUGUST 18 2022 TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: ON LINE

Join Zoom Meeting – link below

Attendees: Alan Rohwer, Kevin Mahoney, Chad Childers, Brian Picca, Richard Hilton, Jeanne Kangas, Al Murphy, Les Fox, Tamara Levine, Maria Neyland, Owen Neville

The meeting was recorded and should appear on the Town Website.

(AGENDA):

MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2022 MEETING - approved

MUSEUM

NEW DEHUMIDIFIER INSTALLED & WORKING WELL - noted

CHECK ON BACK DOOR LEAK

PLASTER CONDITION IN BASEMENT STAIRWELL

FREEZE PROOF FAUCETS STILL ON LIST

HISTORIC SIGNS

- LUCIE HAGER SIGN INSTALLED
- CONFUSION NOTICED ABOUT DATES ON SIGN NOTICED & COMMENTED ON
- DISCUSS DEDICATION OF SIGN FOR FURTHER RECOGNITION - Suggested in October but no action taken

STEELE FARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE – PLANS FOR PHASE 2 OF FARMHOUSE

- PLANNING TO APPLY FOR CPA FUNDS THIS SEASON - noted, the Commission supports this project, as has been relayed to the Community Preservation Committee

CITIZEN INQUIRY ABOUT “RICHARDSON HOUSE” 72 STOW ROAD

- RICHARD HILTON HAS REQUESTED ADDING THIS PROPERTY TO THE DEMOLITION DELAY “HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT” LIST
 - o Richard presented a very detailed discussion of the history of the house and its owners along with his rationale for its unique architectural features. His goal is to have the property added to the “historically significant category of the Demolition Delay Bylaw
- DISCUSS SITE VISIT TO THE PROPERTY & WHAT WAS LEARNED
 - o On July 29, 2022 the Commission did a site visit to the 72 Stow Rd property. All Commission members attended joined by Richard Hilton and Al Murphy, from the Housing Board. Al gave a history of the Town’s interest and ownership of the property. The property was acquired using Housing Trust funds, as the initial plan was to erect low income housing on the site. This plan was later abandoned & the property remains

under the ownership of the Town. Al also presented a 2012 communication for the Historical Commission acknowledging the special features of the house

- FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPERTY
 - o The property, including the house are under the ownership of the Town and is being considered as a site for a Public Safety Facility

- REVIEW & DISCUSS, VOTE FURTHER ACTONS
 - o Inputs were received from Richard Hilton (his rationale for inclusion, mentioned above). Al Murphy & Les Fox discussed history of the Town's acquisition of the property and current status.
 - o Commission members commented on their personal views of the application
 - o With all members voting, the Commission voted three to one to not add the property on the Demolition Delay Bylaw "historically significant" list

LETTER FROM MASS. HISTORICAL COMMISSION ON 1414 MASS. AVE

- COMMENTS ON EARLY REVIEW DOCUMENT
 - o Mass Historical Commission issued comments on a preliminary assessment of the property at 1414 Mass. Ave. indicating that if development plans are submitted that an archeological assessment be conducted. No action is required from us at this time.

PROPOSED NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 2022

Documents:

Slide presentation by Richard Hilton

Historical Commission letter dated November 19, 2012

Characteristics of the Stow Road Property by the Housing Board dated October 15, 2020