

Nantucket Historical Commission

April 19, 2024 Meeting

10AM

Zoom

Attendees:

Holly Backus – online

Rita Carr – online

Clement Durkes – online

Abby De Molina – online

Mickey Rowland – online

Angus MacLeod – online

Tom Montgomery – online

Mike Burns, Transportation Manager – online

Sam Phelan, abutter to the Pleasant Street/Williams Lane proposal – online

Rob Phelan, abutter to the Pleasant Street/Williams Lane proposal – online

Not present: George Butterworth

Agenda

- Roll call at 10AM *Abby, Clement, Mickey, Tom, Rita, and Angus are commissioners present, Holly as staff is present. Guests are Sam Phelan and Mike Burns, the Town Transportation manager. Everyone is online.*
- Public Comment
- Staff Update
 - Batch 5 of Fiscal Year 2022 Surveys received from Public Archaeology Lab *Please review and send any comments individually to Holly.*
 - Historic Tax Credit Letter of Support, 5 Surfside Road (resubmittal) *Was previously voted on – need to vote to send another one. Would look for us to endorse for proposal with no changes and send a new letter with a new date. Tom moved to send a new letter; Abby seconded. Tom, - aye, Abby - aye, Rita - aye, Clement - aye, Mickey - aye, and Angus - aye all voted affirmatively to send the letter.*
 - Offshore wind update *Tom is the representative for the Section 106 review. Holly and Lauren are the town staff that are involved on the projects. If anyone wants to replace Tom, they should let Holly and Angus know.*
- Discussion of Proposed Improvements – Pleasant Street and Williams Lane *Mike Burns presented the proposal. Two questions: input on what needs to be preserved and replaced and what can be added. Sam Phelan, whose property abuts Pleasant Street and Williams Lane, commented on he was glad the safety is being addressed for pedestrians and bikers as it has too long not been a priority. Mickey asked Sam what his concerns were. He also emphasized the importance of historic preservation for this project. Mentioned the roadway striping has been excessive. Other concern is curbing. Clement mentioned her concerns – wanting grass for curbing and no plastic. Want asphalt to be minimized and look less urban and supports wooden fencing. Wants confirmation on the one-way direction. Tom asked Sam if he favors alternative 1 vs. alternative 2 – Sam said alternative 2. Tom supports alternative 1 because of the traffic. Not sure why we need to change it and add bike paths. Holly feels the same. Abby asked if there has been a desire from the cycling community looking for more ways into town and want to reduce people driving alone. Tom thinks less building would help*

reduce traffic. Holly mentioned historically walking via Orange vs Pleasant Street. Asked if we could utilize the existing asphalt sidewalk on Pleasant Street and expand/utilize it. Tom had mentioned reviewing this previously with the Phelan family – expanding the sidewalk on their property. Sam mentioned area in front of Joe's house (61 Pleasant). Would need permission from them – to preserve the trees. Tom and Angus recommend putting a sidewalk on the back of those trees as best way to preserve rural character. No recommendations yet from NP&EDC, Select Board, Safety Workgroup, etc. Mike mentioned the retaining wall makes it difficult to have a large shared sidewalk (8 ft). Preserve the tree-lined road and always have a canopy and keep a path for access – would require an easement. Want to avoid eminent domain taking and acquire a right-of-way. Tom wants to keep things easy.

Rita left at 11AM, as previously noticed.

Holly mentioned it is important to retain the snippet of ruralness in this part of mid-island. Abby questioned what material we would use to avoid tree roots – avoid asphalt and concrete. Angus mentioned the commission is looking for another solution that is two way that supports the smallest path for both pedestrians and cyclists and preserves the rural character of the canopy. Avoid modern materials (asphalt, paint, curbing) and use grass, shells, sand. Smallest road signs on wooden posts. Motion to send a letter to the Transportation Department and recommend the rural nature be preserved and include materials and advocate for the Historic District. Mention appreciation to be included in the process from the beginning and great clear graphics. Motion by Tom to draft a letter to be circulated and reviewed at the next meeting – Mike will attend, seconded by Clement. Tom - aye, Clement - aye, Mickey - aye, Abby - aye, and Angus aye.

- Discussion of Department of Energy Resources Stretch Code updates and potential impacts on historic structures Holly is working with Lauren Sinatra and Andy Bucchino. Germane to ATM and the historic district. Holly has been aware for many years of these changes and how many structures would benefit from a variance or exemption due to HDC historic designation. For ATM article, there would be ramifications to green communities' designation with the state. Holly wants a DOER expert or Joe Topham give us background. Recommendation from Holly is that we support an exemption process. Abby recommended connecting with other communities such as Cambridge, New Bedford, Plymouth, etc. to understand the process. Holly will discuss with Lauren to understand how we can best support for ATM.
- Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles of Preservation Concern Holly mentioned that short-term rentals have been a historic use on the island and the right should be preserved. No other comments. Mickey left at 11:50.
- Mandatory Certified Local Government training, Completing National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Opinions Abby will attend and share materials, Angus also plans to attend. More the merrier.
- Commission Goals Abby presented the goals.
- Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2024 meeting Motion to approve the minutes by Tom, seconded by Clement. Tom – aye, Clement – aye, Abby – aye. Angus – abstain as he did not review them.
- Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 11:58AM **Motion to adjourn by Tom, seconded by Clement. Tom – aye, Clement – aye, Abby – aye, Angus – aye.**