

Nantucket Historical Commission

June 27, 2024 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

Holly Backus
Clement Durkes
Angus MacLeod
Rita Carr
George Butterworth
Mary Bergman – Nantucket Preservation Trust
Abby De Molina – online
Mickey Rowland – online

Not present: Tom Montgomery

Agenda

- Roll call at 10AM *George, Rita, Clement, and Angus are commissioners present, Holly as staff is present; all in person. Abby and Mickey are present online. Guest is Mary Bergman in person.*
- Public Comment
- Staff Update *CLG training was sent by the state – a few members attended.*
- Discussion and Approval of Letter – Pleasant Street and Williams Lane *Clement caught a typo with the order of the options. We have discussed a lot of the tree canopy contributing to the road. We should emphasize that we support doing a pilot to get the data and being included in the dialogue (and not necessarily one approach vs. another). Mary B mentioned to add something about the large concentration of historic properties in this area. Angus will make the edits and send it to everyone and we send Holly any comments directly.*
- 6 North Beach St – Review of Planning Board Major Commercial Development Special Permit Condition of Easement for Public Sidewalk being Shifted onto Private Property to Accommodate the Installation, Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Improvements Shown on Plan Captioned “Proposed Drop-off Exhibit.” As requested by the Select Board on June 5, 2024 *Holly showed the plans and there were some questions from Mickey on what was presented to HDC. Most commissioners were OK with it but Rita asked about the private access being on the public way. The questions are about the parking/drop-off area. There was a question about parking permits being given to people staying at guest houses but there was a discussion who owns that. It is not in the Planning Board purview to issue parking permits – it is the police department. Motion to write a letter to the Select Board with our comments – saying we agree with the proposed changes by Mickey, seconded by Clement. Mickey – aye, Clement – aye, Abby – aye, George – aye, Rita – abstain, Angus – aye. Holly noted we should include comments on the materials, etc.*

- Demolition delay warrant article for Special Town Meeting *Rita will recuse for this discussion since NPT is involved. Mary presented the article that was developed in consultation with town staff. First it would extend demolition delay bylaw period from 30 days to 180 days and it clarifies the process that you need to receive the Certificate of Appropriateness from the HDC before the advertising period begins. Many HDC members saw merit of the bylaw and believe it has merit. There is some discussion on possibly 180 days may be too long. Question is the current bylaw only deals with residential structures, not commercial. This does include sheds but not commercial buildings. There may be desire to include commercial structures as well but would need the HDC support. Holly did point out we follow a different law than the rest of the state but the important part is clarifying the bylaw. Question also on how we landed on the timeline of 180 days – this is based on the suggestion of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Also it was based upon feedback from parties on the island who move structures that required permitting, This is only if you advertise the property and someone wants it within the 30 days – not that if it is advertised for 30 days and no one wants it. Can encourage people to go to the building department and get the confirmation that the building is in condition to be moved. There were year-round housing structures that could not be moved due to the current limited window. Motion to write a letter of support by George, seconded by Clement. George – aye, Clement – aye, Mickey – aye, Abby – aye, Angus – aye. Note Rita did not vote because she had recused herself from the discussion.*
- Ongoing survey work
 - Commissioner comments needed - Batch 5 of Fiscal Year 2022 Surveys received from Public Archaeology Lab *Discussion on how the survey work will be funded going forward. Rita asked about having some flexibility so that we can make it more attractive for organizations to apply. MHC was not budging on the number of surveys – do not understand the Nantucket factor which is why organizations are not willing to do it for the low amount of money. Mary B asked if we had considered talking to the state delegation but Holly would prefer to raise with the MHC again. Discussion of cost factors and why it is so expensive – using on-island vs off-island. Hard to get locals to apply for this work because it does not pay well.*
 - CPC Survey funding update *PIN is starting on their project and want to support them. Note George left at this point.*
- Commission Goals
 - Discussion of possible CPC applications for September 2024 deadline *Goals discussed and updated. Need applications for new applicants – is ongoing.*
- Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2024 meeting *Motion to approve by Clement, second by Rita. Clement – aye, Rita – aye, Abby – aye, Angus – aye. Note Mickey abstained because he did not attend the meeting.*
- Other Business *None.*

Motion to adjourn by Clement at 11.53PM, seconded by Rita. Clement – aye, Rita – aye, Abby – aye, Mickey – aye, Angus – aye.