

Nantucket Historical Commission

November 15, 2024 Meeting

10AM

131 Pleasant Street, Nantucket MA and via Zoom

Attendees:

George Butterworth (Commissioner)
Angus MacLeod (Commissioner)
Rita Carr (Commissioner)
Clement Durkes (Commissioner)
Holly Backus (staff)
Mary Bergman (Nantucket Preservation Trust)
Abby De Molina (Commissioner) – online
Sarah McLane (Commissioner) – online
Hillary Rayport – online

Absent:

Diane Coombs (Commissioner)

Agenda

- Roll call at 10:09AM *Commissioners George, Rita, Clement, and Angus are present in person. Holly as staff is also present in person. Mary Bergman from NPT is also present in person. Commissioners Abby and Sarah are online. Hillary Rayport is also present online.*
- Public Comment *None*
- Staff Update *The town is looking for comment on the lighting – will get confirmation from the Energy Coordinator. WPI may want formal comment – will add to December agenda.*
- Ongoing survey work
 - Community Preservation Commission funded West Monomoy survey project kickoff event: November 16, 10 am – 4 pm at 27 York St *PiN received funding from CPC. Holly will present with Cleary in the morning.*
 - FY 2023 Request for Qualifications status *Holly just received the fully executed and revised contract from MHC this week to 120 surveys. Holly hopes to have it posted next month.*
- Certified Local Government Memorandum of Understanding *Angus thought we should include the mission statements of both boards. He mentioned updating the language from the law (Select Board vs Selectmen) but we should keep with consistent with the law. Suggestion to include statement that the agreement does not supersede or change either commission's enabling legislation. Commission can review via email and send comments to Holly and then we send to Town Counsel to review prior to next meeting. Motion by Angus, second by Clement. Angus – aye, Clement – aye, George – aye, Sarah – aye, Abby – aye, Rita – aye.*
- Commission discussion: minimum maintenance of contributing structures (Town Code ch. 124-13) – 10 New Whale Street, 5 Candle Street, 29 Fair Street *Question on the enforcement as related to Mad Hatter on how buildings get demolished. There is not an enforcement division by the Town. Could use the CLG as a place to review identified*

properties by the NHC. Holly noted it is an education component for the public so we can include in the realtor presentation with specific examples. Mary (NPT) says opportunity to use the surveys to identify the condition of buildings and what is in the enabling legislation to allow us to enforce. Suggestion to work with Jenn D from the state to see if we could do anything else and see what other communities are doing. Holly referenced 6 Fair Street and the Woodbox as examples that were identified in the surveys. Sarah has first-hand experience and said with her property that it was 8-10 years in disrepair (and another one two doors down). The owners kept getting away with more and more and then both properties deteriorated and were allowed to demolish. Needs to be consistent process and time limit. Angus noted it is the exception, not the rule, on the island. Agrees it is a good opportunity to collaborate as the CLG and documentation will be helpful by using Woodbox as a case study. HDC policies and procedures are being updated and this process is being included. Each example is brought up separately and does not necessarily set precedent. Holly will reach out to Jenn Doherty.

- *Surfside Crossing Archeology Discussion Update that MHC confirmed that PAL did an archeology report and there was nothing at the site. Holly will include with HDC comments in letter for the ZBA.*
- *Upcoming Massachusetts Historical Commission webinars – Nov. 19th and Dec. 9th*
- *National Alliance of Preservation Commission (NAPC) membership and webinars Holly forwards them – Rita attended one this week for legal issues.*
 - *NAPC report review by the Select Board, Nov. 13 Main takeaway was the HDC needs more staff to support staff and we should support that recommendation as it also affects the NHC. Most of the changes recommended would require changes to the Special Act by HDC. Motion by Angus to write a letter to the PLUS Director supporting hiring more staff and CC the Town Administrator, Select Board, and HDC, second by Clement. Angus – aye, Clement – aye, George – aye, Sarah – aye, Abby – aye, Rita – aye.*
- *Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report Please send typos to Holly so Rita can send next week.*
- *Commission Goals Abby reviewed.*
- *Other Business*

Motion to adjourn by George at 11:28AM, seconded by Clement. George – aye, Clement – aye, Angus – aye, Sarah – aye, Abby – aye, Rita – aye.