



TOWN OF TRURO Truro Historical Commission

Truro Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Cobb Conference Room, Truro Public Library, 7 Standish Way

Date & Time: June 15, 2019, 10:00 am

Members Present: Matthew Kiefer, Chair, Historical Commission
Chuck Steinman, Vice Chair
Fred Todd, Secretary
David Kirchner
Richard Larkin
Jim Summers

Members Not Present: David Perry

Also Attending: Susan Areson, Select Board Liaison
Eric Dray, former préservation consultant to THC

1. **Introductions:** Chairman Kiefer introduced Susan Areson, newly elected to the Select Board and serving as liaison to the Historical Commission. She defined her role as a communications link between the Commission and the Board. Matt briefly reviewed the role of the Commission, in particular its role in maintaining the inventory of historic properties, managing districts and approvals from the Mass Historical Commission (MHC), and weighing significance of buildings subject to the demolition delay provisions of the town bylaws.

2. **Edgewood Farm/Castle Hill Center:** Window replacement at Edgewood Farm was funded by the Community Preservation Committee subject to approval of the scope of work, products and final completion by the Historical Commission. Work has been completed and a comprehensive record of before and after photos of all windows was prepared by Castle Hill. Results appear to be satisfactory, but before final approval, the HC will conduct a site visit.

3. **Haven Cottage:** Haven Cottage is located in the Highland Light National Register district, on the south side of the way leading from the Highland House Museum to the lighthouse. The owner had originally proposed adding a dormer. Chuck Steinman was able to find old photographs of the building and suggested that addition of a porch would be more appropriate; the owner agreed

and with Chuck's assistance a period-sympathetic porch was added. It was agreed that the HC would send the owner a letter of commendation.

4. 157 Slough Pond Road: This project (demolition of an existing house and studio located on remote site in the National Seashore zoning district) has been moving through ZBA and Planning Board approvals and could potentially come before this Commission for demolition review. We discussed in general the provisions of the Historic Preservation bylaw and the mid-century modern house legacy. We noted that the house was not over 75 years old (built in 1975). It was suggested that we review the National Register policy for determining significance for buildings that are less than 50 years old but may in fact rise to the level of preferably preserved. We also noted that the existing structures are not visible from a public way and that it may be appropriate to request permission to visit the site if the project is referred from the Building Inspector.

We reviewed the timetable in case of referral from the Building Inspector — he has 10 days to refer to the Historical Commission, the HC (in the form of Chair and Vice-Chair) have 15 days to determine if the structure has significance sufficient to warrant a hearing regarding a demolition delay of up to 1 year and 30 days in which to hold a such a hearing.

5. Liaison with Building Inspector: We agreed that it would be appropriate for one or two members to meet with the new part-time building inspector, Rick Stevens, to review the Historic Preservation by law provision and procedures for referral of demolition applications to the HC. Matt will initiate.

6. Review of MHC District Applications: Applications for the Longnook/Higgins Hollow and Pamet districts are still pending. MHC requested some additional information regarding contributing and non-contributing designations that Chuck and Eric Dray (past consultant to the THC regarding the town inventory) will address. If additional photos are needed, David Kirchner will assist.

7. Local Comprehensive Plan Update: Susan Areson reported that the plan update has been delayed, in part because of staff changes at the Cape Cod Commission. Activity may pick up in a month or so. Some time ago, Matt had prepared an outline of THC activity and future concerns as a basis of discussion with the Plan Committee, which he will recirculate.

8. Truro 400: Jim Summers reported on the status of planning for 400-year events during 2020. Plans are preliminary and seem to focus on the Pilgrims, Corn Hill and the Mayflower descendants. We discussed whether it would be possible to introduce more content regarding the native American experience and perspectives and whether the Historical Society could play role.

9. Designation Plaques: Chuck reported that the price has increased. Direction on how to apply are on the HC website.

10. Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

Signed,



Frederick Todd

