

TOWN of TRURO
Truro Historical Commission
Truro Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Via GoTo Meeting Video
Date and Time: September 14, 2021, 5:00 pm

Members Present: Matthew Kiefer, Chair
Chuck Steinman, Vice Chair
David Kirchner, Secretary
Amy Rolnick, Member
Jim Summers, Member
Bart Michell, Member
Richard Larkin, Member

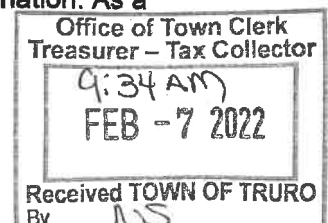
Also Attending: Barbara Carboni, Truro Town Planner
Mark Hammer, Hammer Architecture
Anne Blythe Robertson, Applicant
Mary E. Perkins, Applicant

Welcome: Barbara Carboni provided instructions to the public about how to access the public meeting via phone or online. Chairman Kiefer opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.

Public Hearing and Vote – Demolition of 72 Depot Road – Chairman Kiefer opened the public hearing and explained the purpose of the meeting and the applicable historic preservation bylaw. The Chair, after consulting with the Vice Chair, determined that the existing structure at 72 Depot Road met the criteria of Truro's Preserving Historic Properties bylaw, given its age (original construction was 1926) and history and scheduled the hearing to determine whether the building would be preferably preserved and subject to a demolition delay of up to one year outlined in the bylaw. The Chair thanked the owners for previously hosting an in-person site visit for the members of the Historic Commission so most members had the opportunity to view both the interior and exterior of the structure and property prior to the meeting.

Chairman Kiefer turned the meeting over to the applicants Anne Blythe Robertson and Mary E. Perkins. The applicants explained that they had recently purchased the seasonal cottage and intended to update and make it a year-around home. To this end, they presented the site plan and elevations and explained that the design will keep a portion of the new structure within the existing footprint. However, they intend to add additional space and a separate garage which will expand the footprint. The property is subject to Conservation Commission restrictions and the architect, Mark Hammer, indicated that these restrictions have presented challenges with the Conservation Commission so the plans were not final at this stage of the process.

Mr. Kiefer briefly reviewed the recently updated Truro Historic Survey summary of the property and pointed out that while the cottage itself may not be individually significant, it is within a historic district that may be eligible for a National Register Historic District designation. As a



consequence, its proposed demolition should be viewed in the context of the surrounding historic district and it is important to consider the compatibility of any new structure within the context of the historic district.

There was some discussion of the possibility of salvaging some or all of the existing cottage. Mr. Steinman suggested that the owners might offer the structure to be relocated for affordable housing. The owners expressed openness to this possibility.

Members briefly deliberated and shared their views. Mr. Kiefer asked if there were any further questions. There being none, there was a motion made by Mr. Mitchell stating that the current structure did not warrant a preferably preserved designation and there was no need to impose a demolition delay. The Commission requested that the owners and architect consider the historic context and share the final plans for the new structure with the Commission. The motion was seconded by David Kirchner and all members, through a roll call vote, voted in favor. The Chair will inform the Building Commissioner of the decision that demolition may proceed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. A full video recording of the meeting is available at www.truro-ma.gov.



David Kirchner, Secretary

