Minutes of Meeting: Wednesday, April 5th, 2017- 7:00p.m.
Room 307, Town Hall- 37 Shattuck Street, Littleton, MA

Members Present: John Leger, Jonathan Liebowitz, Andrew Sammarco, Linda Stein, Andrew Watt, Donna White

Members Absent: None

Guests in Attendance: Carolyn Mueller, David Guthrie, Laguna Austin, Don Maciver, Nancy Morrison

Chair Andrew Watt called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Meeting Minutes (2/22/17):
The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from its last meeting held on February 22nd, 2017. After the review, Linda made a motion to approve said meeting minutes as printed. Donna seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved (6-0).

Mail:
The Commission received two items in the mail. One included a large paper list of historical places from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which shall be kept in the custody of Donna. The other was a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, informing the Commission of future sidewalk ramps to be constructed in close proximity to historical sites in Town. Said letter also invited comments from the members regarding these improvements. The locations included the side walks at: King Street & Baldwin Road, King Street & Jennifer Street, King Street & Rogers Street, King Street & Russell Street, King Street-west of Shattuck Street, and King Street & Meetinghouse Road. The Commission had no comments on this matter to share with MassDOT, seeing a need for ramps in these areas.

Application for Membership:
The current vacancy on the Commission has been advertised, and the Board of Selectmen’s office has received one application for appointment to date. The applicant, Rachel Robinson,
was invited to attend this meeting by Andrew S. to learn about the Commission’s important role in Town and to meet the Commissioners. Unfortunately, Ms. Robinson was unable to attend the meeting. Andrew S. will reach out to her again to see if she is still interested. The vacancy will also continue to be advertised.

**Application for Demolition - 260 Foster Street (Martin Wood House):**

The Commission reviewed the application for demolition of 260 Foster Street, also known as the Martin Wood House. Prior to the meeting, a walk-through of the home was conducted by the Commissioners. Carolyn Mueller from the Historical Society mentioned that the building was likely constructed prior to the year 1774. Present at the meeting was owner David Guthrie of Durkee Farm Estates, which is currently developing the land around this historic home. Mr. Guthrie stated that although he had pulled a demolition application from the building department, it is not currently his intent to demolish the home, but rather to sell it to an interested party. He added that the barn next to the house will be preserved along with five acres no matter what happens to the home. While the house is in good condition, Mr. Guthrie noted that it is in need of some work. He could renovate the building and strip away its current interior to sell it, but this would remove its historical character. The owner also mentioned that another challenge in selling the home would be putting a value on it. Don Maciver suggested that a specialty realtor could assist in this process. Mr. Guthrie furthered that there appears to be a lot of public support towards preserving the house, and that he will soon be putting it on the market to help accomplish this goal.

At this meeting, the Commission was charged with responding to the owner’s demolition application by determining if the building in question was of historical significance under the demolition delay bylaw. If it is declared to be significant to the Town’s history by the Commission, the applicant has 60 days to submit a demolition plan to the Board. After this submittal, a public hearing is scheduled to determine if a six month demolition delay would be imposed on the site. After the Commission reviewed the history and present condition of the home, as well as public comment, Jonathan moved that the board declare the Martin Wood House at 260 Foster Street as historically significant under Chapter 65, Section 4, Sub-section B of the Littleton Town Code. Linda seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously in favor (6-0). Mr. Guthrie stated that he will think about withdrawing his application for demolition at this time, as he will likely not be able to meet the 60 day deadline to submit a demolition plan, and will notify the Commission in a couple weeks with his decision.

**Master Plan Implementation:**

The Town has finalized its new master plan. Linda recently had the opportunity to read the latest draft of this report and noted/made comments on its suggestions with regard to the
Town’s history. She was able to create a 12 page condensed version of these suggestions/comments for the Commission to review. Using this list, the Commission will be able to implement many of the historical goals of the master plan, while also becoming more proactive in its efforts. Linda added that it might be good to set aside time each meeting (or to set up special meetings) to address these items. Andrew W. suggested that maybe a subcommittee would be an effective means of getting this work done. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Patriots’ Day Event:**
The Commission’s annual Patriots’ Day celebration will be taking place on Wednesday, April 19th, at 7pm. Andrew S. reported that the Boxborough Minutemen Company will be present to fire a musket volley. He also mentioned that advertisements for the event will be placed in the Action Unlimited magazine, as well as the Littleton Independent, and that the Garden Club has once again agreed to prepare two wreaths to be laid on the monuments at Liberty Square. He will be contacting the Board of Selectmen about sending a representative to speak at the ceremony, and Indian Hill Music Center about the possibility of sending a student to play Taps for the event’s conclusion. Jonathan volunteered to be the Commission’s speaker. John will be putting out sandwich boards with event details, and Andrew S. will investigate the feasibility of hanging the Commission’s Patriots’ Day banner over Route 110 or 119 via the Light Department.

**Survey of Historical Resources in Town:**
A request for proposals is still needed in order to select a firm to begin work on this project. Jonathan will work on this with Linda to have it ready soon. There will be an update on this at the next meeting.

**Long Store Preservation Updates:**
There were no new updates on this matter. Carolyn mentioned that all artifacts from this structure are in storage at the Museum.

**32 King Street (Jesse Kimball House) Demolition Updates:**
Andrew S. reported that Indian Hill Music Center intends to demolish the Jesse Kimball House by the end of this month (April). He will work with Indian Hill to remove the home’s newel post, which the Commission would like to preserve, from the structure before demolition.

**Harwood Avenue Quarantine Station Monument Replacement Updates:**
Andrew S. reported that he has been in contact with Budget and Finance Director Bonnie Holston and Garside Monuments of Westford about replacing the Quarantine Station
Monument. He is hoping that the work will soon be able to commence. Further updates will be provided at the next meeting.

**Porter Road Bridge Updates:**
Now that spring has arrived, the Commission will reevaluate the condition of the historical bridge on Porter Road that appeared to be structurally degrading last summer/fall. The members will follow up with Highway Department Superintendent James Clyde. This may become a restoration project, possibly funded by the Community Preservation Committee.

**Revolutionary War Veteran Dr. Enoch Dole- Purple Heart Award:**
Donna provided an update on her efforts to see that Revolutionary War veteran Doctor Enoch Dole is posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice during the Battle of Dorchester Heights. She mentioned that this award could be given to Dr. Dole during the Town’s Veteran’s Day celebration in November, and that she’s already been in contact with the Middlesex Volunteers who have expressed interest in participating in a ceremony. She will also try to arrange for a modern U.S. Army representative to take part. There will be more planning and information at the next meeting.

**Freedom’s Way Event at Prouty Woods:**
Jonathan reported on the progress that he and the Freedom’s Way Planning Committee have made on setting up the event on May 20th, at the Prouty Woods. He mentioned that the event appears to be expanding rapidly, with many planned activities being held between the New England Forestry Foundation, Littleton Conservation Trust/Commission, Littleton Community Farm, and the Historical Society/Commission. There will be a historical exhibit highlighting the Prouty family and all that they have done for the community. There will be more information at the next meeting.

**Old Burial Ground Conservation Project Updates:**
Andrew S. reported that he will soon be in contact with Fannin and Lehner of Concord, the firm contracted by the Commission to perform conservation work at the Old Burial Ground, as they will be starting said project soon as it is now spring. This work will likely begin towards the end of April. He will update the Commission on their progress at the next meeting.

**Historical Monuments in Town- Condition/Inventory:**
Andrew S. mentioned that he will be working with resident Henry Christle to inventory and assess the condition of the historical monuments spread throughout the Town. Once this is done, the Commission can begin restoring or replacing those in poor shape. This half of the project could be funded by community preservation money.
**Nolumbeka Project Updates:**
Don Maciver updated the Commission on his latest work on behalf of the members with the Nolumbeka Project. This group works with Native American groups, tribal leaders, and local Historical Commissions to preserve ceremonial lands and artifacts. He mentioned that he had been attending various planning meetings and workshops with the group and will be attending a conference on June 17th in Deerfield, Massachusetts.

*Linda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Donna, and the Commission voted 6-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:08p.m.*

*Next Meetings: May 3rd, June 7th, July 12th, August 2nd, and September 5th (all at 7pm).*

Andrew Sammarco, Vice Chair

Attachment:
*Exhibit A: Letter from Massachusetts Department of Transportation*
*Exhibit B: Mass. Cultural Resources Information System - 260 Foster St.*

**Approved: 5/3/17**
March 20, 2017

Mr. Andrew Watt  
Town of Littleton  
Historical Commission, Chair  
37 Shattuck Street  
PO Box 1305  
Littleton, MA 01460

Re: 607038 District 3 – ADA Retrofits at Various Locations

Dear Mr. Watt:

MassDOT District 3 has been awarded $1.28 million for Project 607038 D3 ADA Retrofits – at Various Locations through the ADA Transition Plan to retrofit failed curb ramps in fiscal year 2017. To best utilize state funds for this project and all future retrofit projects, a prioritization plan was created and retrofit locations that would achieve the greatest benefit for the community were determined for more immediate construction.

In 2013, as a result of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, MassDOT developed a Curb Ramp Inventory System with the goal of establishing a curb ramp remediation schedule. The system was designed to be an online clearinghouse containing curb ramp data for all curb ramps meeting the Transition Plan criteria. Using the results of the inventory, an algorithm scored each ramp and determined compliance based on ADA/AAB standards interpreted by the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD). The identified locations where non-compliant or missing curb ramps leave a gap in accessibility were placed on a curb ramp list. All of the ramps on the curb ramp list must eventually be reconstructed and brought into compliance with current ADA/AAB standards.

MassDOT has recognized the following wheelchair ramp locations in the Town of Littleton for reconstruction in 2017/2018.

- King Street (Route 2A) at Baldwin Road
  - 3 wheelchair ramps
- King Street (Route 2A) Jennifer Street
  - 3 wheelchair ramps
- King Street (Route 2A) Rogers Street
- 3 wheelchair ramps

- King Street (Route 2A) Russell Street
  - 2 wheelchair ramps

- King Street (Route 2A) West of Shattuck Street
  - 2 wheelchair ramps

- King Street (Route 110) Meetinghouse Road
  - 2 wheelchair ramps

It is anticipated that this project will be supported in part with federal funds and will require review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800). The enclosed project information is provided for the Littleton Historical Commission to review in compliance with the regulations governing Section 106.

MassDOT Highway Division requests that the Littleton Historical Commission review the enclosed materials at their earliest convenience, and solicit any comments that the Commission wishes to make regarding this project. Written comments should be submitted to: Patricia Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attn: Jeffrey Shrimpton.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed project information, please feel free to contact Ammie Rogers (857-368-8884), Project Manager at MassDOT Highway Division. If you have questions concerning the Section 106 process, please feel free to contact Jeffrey Shrimpton (617-973-7497) of MassDOT Highway Division's Cultural Resources Unit.

Sincerely,

Mark Gravallese
Howard Stein Hudson
Associate Principal | Manager of Public Infrastructure