

Minutes
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday,
January 8, 2015
3rd Floor Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: David J. Russo, Marilynne K. Roach, Elisabeth H. Loukas, Susan Steele, Thomas Melone.

Member(s) Absent: J.B. Jones, Donald S. Berg

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness

Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

(minutes adopted 3/12/15)

1) Single Family home demolitions in Two Family Zoned areas discussion.

Historical Commission (HC) Chairman, David J. Russo commenced a discussion with the (HC) members about working together to create some input to submit for the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The group examined ways to determine which houses to look at in the process.

The Preservation Agent, Chris Hayward suggested it might be best to look town wide rather than only looking at T-Zone.

Roach explained that she has been researching Ministerial lands and the story behind them and wondered about whether or not a report on the area would help inform people about these types of homes built around 1830's. She requested help from Russo in obtaining some relevant maps.

Joyce Kelly a current member of the Historical Society of Watertown suggested that a Power Point presentation at the public library could help get Roach's word out.

Kelly suggested publishing an article to put in Wicked Local and recommended placing the article on the Town website and the Historical Society website.

Kelly also suggested a walking tour which she has done in her capacity as member of the Historical Society. She said that walking tours have been more widely attended in comparison to lectures.

2) Discussion on inviting City of Somerville Planner to speak in Watertown in regards to the measuring/preserving character of the Town's neighborhoods.

Steele referred to Video Number 4 of the City of Somerville Developer Series as “Measure What You Care About.” She requested a status update on bringing George Proakis, Planner for the City of Somerville, to Watertown for a meeting to talk about the neighborhood measuring tools he has created and put into use.

Russo replied that April may be a good time and said that he wanted to talk to Steve Magoon, Watertown’s Director of Community Development and Planning, to make sure when the best time to schedule this was. He referred to Steve’s involvement in planning the meeting as crucial because he is indispensable to the entire process for everyone involved here.

Steele suggested that talking to David Gamble from Gamble Associates could be a wise move at this point considering he is so knowledgeable about this topic and because he has been successfully working with the town on the forthcoming Design Review guidelines.

Russo suggested taking a look at the Comprehensive Plan, getting some feedback together and submitting it to the town on how to preserve the neighborhoods.

Loukas introduced questioning the meaning of the word preserved.

3) December 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes reviewed and adopted with modification.

- 4) Old Business-** Arlington St. Cemetery project review. Joyce Kelly has been reaching out to local architectural preservation contractors in order to find companies interested in providing quotes to restore damaged/weathered headstones at the Arlington St Cemetery. She has met with two different companies and hopes to hear from them, in writing, soon.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.