

## Belmont Historic District Commission MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
Meeting Held Remotely via Zoom

**Staff Present:** Gabriel Distler

### **Commission Members Present:**

- ☒ Carl Solander, Co-Chair
- ☒ Carol Moyles, Co-Chair
- ☐ Stefan Ahlblad
- ☒ Jacqueline Appel
- ☐ Michael Chesson

- ☒ Drew Nealon
- ☐ Lisa Harrington, ex-officio
- ☐ Nushn Yazdi

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: September 15, 2022

TIME: 9:22 AM

### **Community Members Present:**

Mike Raskin, agent for BluSky Restoration Contractors

#### **1. 7:04 PM Meeting Called to Order**

Carol Moyles presiding; Jacqueline Appel, Minutes

#### **2. New Public Hearings**

- Case 22-16: 644 Pleasant Street – Repairing front handrail and tile mosaics
- Mike Raskin from BluSky Restoration Contractors explained that the proposed work is to repair the damage to the front steps of the Belmont School Administrative building. The repair will consist of replacing the existing granite steps to restore the proper pitch and repairing the front portion of the tile mosaic using the best match. Pictures of the damaged areas and tile samples were provided. Concern over matching the tiles was expressed but it was also noted that some of the tiles had been replaced in the past and were distinguishable as such.

Some of the black tiles might also need to be replaced. No sample of black tile was provided.

C Moyles made a motion to approve the work with the condition to assess the black tile (if necessary) and that a HDC member review the work on the mosaic J Appel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A further motion was made to designate C Solander as the HDC member to review the work and make any necessary decisions on the mix and color of tiles. The motion passed unanimously

#### **3. Approval of Minutes**

- Approve draft of the 7/12/2022 BHCD meeting.
- C. Moyles made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/12/2022 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Continuing Discussion**

##### **a. HDC Membership update**

- Regarding potential candidates:
  - Chris Arthur is no longer interested in being a candidate.
  - G Distler is still waiting to hear from Mahesh who initially expressed interest and resides in the District. He will re-reach out to Mahesh Jayakumar as well as the several other people who expressed interest in May.
  - There are several other interested candidates.
  - The Select Board would like to see more candidates.
- The timeline for the Select Board to decide on candidates is unknown. The HDC wrote a letter to the Select Board asking them to vote on the current candidates. G Distler will discuss with Glenn Clancy the need to get this resolved.

##### **b. Town-owned historic Assets Building Inventor (CPC Projects)**

- Re hiring a consultant to prepare the assessment of the identified buildings, G Distler will reach out to Mr. Blazon to discuss the status of his plan, progress, and timeline. He will also show the templates to Mr. Blazon that L Harrington provided.
- It was suggested that L Harrington might be willing to attend the next meeting to give pointers on how to obtain funding. G Distler will follow up on this.
- The need for an action plan was discussed as well as the need to get the CPC application deadlines for obtaining funding incorporated into the Work Plan. J Appel will review the CPC materials on the CPC website and also reach out to M Chesson as the HDC representative on the CPC to get further insights on the process and deadlines for the various CPC funding milestones.

##### **c. Benton Library Update**

- No update. However, the Library is on the list of identified historic buildings for assessment (refer to b. above)

##### **d. Work Plan Review**

- McLean Barn Joint HDC/LMC Meeting
  - A Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 12 to discuss the barn and next steps. This is intended to be a joint meeting with the HDC and the LMC. HDC should plan to have a quorum of members attend. J Appel and D Nealon would be available. An agenda must be posted prior to the meeting. C Solander volunteered to write the minutes.
  - Also discussed was having C Moyles take over C Solander's role as the HDC member on the Land Management Committee. The transition will take place after the October 12 meeting.
- Housing Production Plan Advisory (New Item)
  - Background: This will be a working group (not formal Select Board appointed ) to work on a housing production plan for the Town.
  - A HDC member will be required to participate. C Solander volunteered to be the HDC representative.
- MBTA Community Zoning Update
  - The first introductory meeting was held.
- HDC Webpage Update
  - No update
- Other: Belmont Veterans Memorial Donor Plaques
  - A letter was received from the Town regarding plaques to be installed at the Veterans Memorial Donor site. The Town is looking for a letter of support that will go the Board of Selectmen. C Moyles will follow up on this.
  - C Solander felt the HDC should get a better understanding of its role and oversight obligations and should be informed of such plans in advance. C Moyles will write a draft letter to be reviewed in advance of the next HDC meeting.

e. Administrative Updates

- Possibility of changing to In-person or hybrid meetings
  - The possibility of switching to in-person or hybrid meetings will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission Workshops
  - G Distler received and forwarded to HDC members an email from the Massachusetts Historical Commission Local Government Programs Coordinator regarding MHC's fall schedule of virtual workshops. Registration for the workshops is now open. The registration link is in the email. These are not mandatory but are interesting learning opportunities.

Carl Solander motioned to close the meeting; Carol Moyles seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Monthly Meeting : Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Minutes assigned to S Ahlblad.

Respectfully submitted by Jacqueline Appel