

Belmont Historic District Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, via Zoom

Staff Present: Gabriel Distler

Commission Members Present:

Carol Moyles, Co-Chair

Carl Solander, Co-Chair

Michael Chesson

Jacqueline Appel

Stefan Ahblad

Drew Nealon

Absent: Meg Reilly

Community Members Present: N/A

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:04 PM

a. C. Solander presiding

2. New Public Hearings: N/A

3. New Discussion:

a. Plymouth Congregational Church

Carl reported that he has met with member of the church and the architect. They want to do some repairs and upgrades, mostly brick work, and will submit a plan next month. Carl suggested they break their work plan into two parts; he recommended placement of a new ramp for handicapped access to an elevator in rear of building.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- Approve Draft 2/14/23 Meeting Minutes
- Discussion of official titles for David Blazon and Matt Haskell
- The scrolls on the Homer House of the Women's Club will look different because they are being restored, but the design is not different
- Jaqueline moved to approve as amended. Carl seconded. Unanimous approval.

5. Continued Discussions:

- The McLean Barn tour on March 3 was sparsely attended, except for members of the Land Management Committee (LMC). Viktoria Haase, President of the Belmont

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 13, 2023

TIME: 9:57 AM

Historical Society was there. It is a big, interesting space but needs a lot of work. LMC will prepare a proposal for future use.

- The mockup of the new stone wall at the Homer House, Women's Club, 661 Pleasant Street has been approved by the Planning Board. Carol and Gabriel made a visit and met with Club president Wendy Murphy and architect Andy Rojas. Carol suggested larger stones for the top layer of the wall. Otherwise, it looks good. Carol also said that a letter about the framing for the new windows has been submitted.
- HDC Membership Application: Nushin Yazdi has submitted her resignation letter from the Historic District Commission to the Select Board. HDC is required to have a resident of the Pleasant Street Historic District, and she contacted Matthew D. Schonewald, 548 Pleasant Street. He has submitted a membership application. He was unanimously approved for full membership and recommended to the Select Board to replace Nushin Yazdi.
- Brief discussion of HDC webpage.
- Jaqueline reported on the Town-owned Historic Assets Building Inventory, a CPC project.
- Work Plan:
 - i. HDC potential funding streams: nothing to report
 - ii. 2023 Work Plan Review—no comments.
 - iii. MBTA Community Zoning Update—Drew reported a meeting with the Metro Area Planning Council. The committee continues to meet biweekly.
 - iv. Housing Production Plan—Carl reported that the last meeting discussed how to meet the goals of affordable housing, including DEI, sustainability, community path, and walkable streets.
 - a. Gabriel reported on the large Belmont-Watertown Methodist Church on the northern edge of Cushing Square, which is on the market. Everyone is encouraged to attend a meeting about the building. It is on the demolition delay list.

6. General Housekeeping:

- a. Gabriel gave an update on the possible extension of the remote meeting waiver. The legislature has not yet acted on this, but if it does it will likely be just before the deadline at the end of the month. He will notify HDC members.

Carl moved to adjourn. Carol seconded. Unanimous approval Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Chesson