

Minutes of Nantucket Historical Commission Meeting – January 17th, 2020

Commissioners Present: Tom Montgomery, Georgia Raysman, Mickey Rowland, Hillary Rayport, Don DeMichele, and David Silver

Others Present: Holly Backus (staff)

Meeting called to order at 10:35am

Motion to approve minutes (Tom M.) All in favor: Hillary, David, Clement, Tom, Angus, Mickey and Ben

Consent Agenda: Roundabouts With Nantucket In Mind. This is the report we prepared before, but adjusted as a broad guidance – not specific to a location. Report will be sent to the Select Board

Tom: motion to accept report All in favor: Hillary, David, Clement, Tom, Angus, Mickey and Ben

Historic Pavement – proposed for Annual Town Meeting Bylaw

1.) Driveway access amendment – proposed to Planning Board and Select board

Proposed addition to bylaw language - “A Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Nantucket Historic District Commission (HDC) is required prior to driveway access approval by the DPW for lots located within the “Core Historic Districts” as shown on the map entitled “Core Historic Districts”, dated April 9, 2019, as may be amended from time to time by the HDC.”

- New zoning law specifies that you must go to the HDC for a COA prior to making an application to the DPW for a curb cut, in the Old Historic District

-Holly requests a letter in support of the proposed changes from the NHC to show our support for Holly. She will be presenting to HDC and Select board.

-Commission agrees to draft letter in support of Holly

2.) Proposed Amendment to by law limiting road construction. Asked the Select board to put forward as part of their warrant

-SB and Town manager Sent language to town council. Town council amended some wording but did not comment or offer much feedback. Town Mangers advice is to wait until next Town Meeting to allow feedback from Staff.

-Proposal to hold this until October in hopes that we can have comment from the DPW and hear their concners.

-Commission is all in favor of tabling this until October.

Upcoming roadwork – protection of historic pavement.

Exploring whether a “Friends of the Historical Commission” could be established to fund research and projects. Would provide support and resources for the NHC which exists as an advisory commission to the Town. Since we are already working with an understanding/working relationship with the Town this will allow us to hire consultants and professionals to work at a deeper level.

-The Town Manager appreciated the additional resources. Holly would be our liaison.

- One project could be a preservation engineer report on the streets/sidewalks.

Complete Streets Project

-Upper Main Street is in the implementation stage

-Judith Chase Lane also got tacked on (completed)

-Sparks Ave, Williams Street, Pleasant Street are on the agenda as well

-DPW oversees this project and there are a few documents that serve as important points of reference for this type of work

1.) “Complete Streets Policy” guides this type of work. NHC believes this document is an adequate guiding force for this work.

2.) “Sidewalk Improvement Plan Phase 1 Implementation Policy” (type of work, what will be done, etc.) Is this a current document?

-BETA is the company that will be doing the work

-Commission is concerned that the historical consideration may be overlooked. A lot of details have not been decided on, but we are concerned that they will follow the highway standards and ignore historically sensitive areas/materials/etc. For instance, how do we as a community feel about 30” florescent yellow signs? They will be everywhere.

-The guiding documents omit a lot of historical considerations that we believe should be prioritized. There is no definition of “historical considerations” and we fear that the wording does not hold these accountable. A concern is there is no preservation plan for Nantucket. The foundational documents to keep Nantucket looking like Nantucket must be expanded and readily available to planners and DPW.

NHC wants to look at the site and the language of the work. Plan to form a “Walking Tour” that will visit the site and assess the nature of the work. We want to do this before the 25% plan so that we have been to the site, done the research, etc.

-This will have to be in writing... for example, commenting on whether scale, colors, and materials are appropriate.

Discussion of upcoming meeting with DPW Director Rob McNeil (next meeting).

The NHC wants to understand Rob’s consideration of preservation and the nature of the work that was done on Judith Chase Lane, etc. We are committed to a process of learning, and the Commission believes that a dialogue with the person in-charge of this work will be very helpful to our deliberative process. We want Rob to see us as his partners in this process. We also want

to convey that Nantucket is different and classic engineering techniques may not always be the best practice when preservation is a factor.

-The NHC would like access to plans for the Complete Streets Project.

Staff Update

-MVP Grant for historical resources FEMA Flood Design Guidelines

-had to put a second RFP out, so we are hopeful that we can get them engaged

-public discussion and work groups will start happening between now and the June deadline

CAMP Training

-Holly spoke with executive director of NAPC (National Alliance for Preservation Commissioners)

-Two trainers familiar with Nantucket will be coming on May 29th We still need to hammer down a location and firm up the agenda (GHYC, Nantucket Hotel, etc.)

CPC Grant and Building with Nantucket in Mind

-Letter coming from the Holly to NHC and HDC jointly. This is to ensure a clear outline of each commission's responsibilities.

-NHC will be drafting RFP for the HDC to review.

Old Business – Milestone Road Project

-We compiled sign data from the Milestone Road project to take inventory of which signs in fact ended up going up, and which signs did not. Overall, about 50% of the signs have gone up.

Most of the deer signs and speed limit signs are up. A minority of turning ahead, truck ahead sign went up. Ped Xing ahead signs are up but pedx here are not up. The 24 no passing signs are not up. Do we want to have more commentary on the signs? Commission agrees that state has reviewed our concerns and more commentary would be redundant, but we can include this in our report to the Select Board when we next make one. We should talk to the DPW and find out what more signs are planned, if any.

NHC Website and Mission Statement – discussion postponed.

Social Media

-David to spearhead this effort in coordination with Florencia Rullo

-Consists of Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

-This will give the public the ability to follow the Commission's work in real time

Next meeting scheduled for February 24th from 10:30am – 1:00pm **Meeting Adjourned at approx. 1:00 pm**