

TOWN OF ASHLAND
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: February 2, 2021

MEETING NOTES:

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Childress
(Voting Members only) James Neilsen
Jennifer Paratore
Joanna Sorensen

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM***: following the guidelines set forth by Gov. Baker back in May 2020 dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Vice Chair E. Childress called the meeting to order and the meeting minutes from the previous meeting, November 10, 2020, were voted on and accepted by the members in attendance. The only change made to previous meeting minutes was clerical; James Neilsen was incorrectly listed as an Associate Member on the draft and has been since been added to the Voting Member list.

Once the introductions were completed, Childress began addressing the items on the agenda. First item on the agenda was Jim Hanna, an Associate Member of the Historical Commission, who has unfortunately passed away. Childress suggested that the remembrance of Mr. Hanna be tabled until the next meeting so Chairman DeAlmedia could say a few words. Members in attendance agreed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was creating an inventory of historical homes and properties. J. Neilsen introduced the Members to a historical property survey commissioned by the Town of Ashland in 2010. Its titled "Communitywide Historic Properties Survey" and is located on the Town website. <https://www.ashlandmass.com/DocumentCenter/View/476/Communitywide-Historic-Properties-Survey-PDF?bidId=>

J. Sorensen located the document and distributed it to all Members of the HC via e-mail. Neilsen felt the survey is a great starting point for the Commission and suggested the Members review the document and discuss it at the next meeting. J. Paratore proposed confirming that properties listed on the 2010 survey are still existing. Sorensen suggested that the Commission also cross reference the list of properties with the National Register. Childress and Neilsen mentioned that Cliff Wilson at the Ashland Historical Society could be a valuable resource for the Commission in the future.

The members then discussed future agenda items. Paratore asked the group how they wished to handle e-mails coming in to the Historical Commission from the community. Paratore volunteered to respond to the e-mails, acknowledging their question or concern and suggest adding it to the next meeting's agenda. The Members in attendance agreed that was the best

way to handle things until we get a clearer picture the role and responsibilities attributed to the Historical Commission. Childress mentioned an e-mail that had come to the Historical Commission regarding what could be done to a home on Cordaville Rd and asked Paratore if she knew which home it was. Paratore confirmed that it was 89 Cordaville Rd and that the request came from a real estate agent representing buyers interested in purchasing the property. The buyers were wondering what alterations could be made to the property if it was designated a historic home. Neilsen confirmed that the property was listed on the 2010 Town Survey as the Alvin Clafin House. Paratore asked what role the Historic Commission has regarding proposed alterations or demolition of historic properties. Neilsen suggested that since this current Commission is relatively new, we should invite one of the Select Board members to the next meeting to further discuss how the Historical Commission should function moving forward.

Next on the agenda was setting the date for the next meeting. Childress suggested Tuesday March 2, 2021 and proposed pushing the meeting time back to 7pm to encourage higher attendance. Members in attendance agreed unanimously.

With no other matters to discuss, Vice Chair Childress made a motion to adjourn, seconded by James Neilsen. Vote 4-0.

Next meeting March 2, 2021 at 7pm. Adjournment 6:47pm