

TOWN OF ASHLAND  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

MEETING NOTES:

Members in attendance:  
(Voting Members only)

Tom DeAlmeida  
Elizabeth Childress  
Joanna Sorensen  
James Neilsen  
Karen Coleman  
Kelly Flannery  
Jennifer Paratore

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm

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

Chairman DeAlmeida and Vice Chairwoman Childress called the meeting to order and the meeting minutes from the previous meeting, May 11, 2021, were unanimously accepted by the members in attendance

J. Paratore reviewed the week's agenda. First item was appointing a member of the Historical Commission to the Conservation Preservation Committee. Joanna Sorensen was nominated by J. Paratore and supported by K. Coleman, J. Neilsen and T. DeAlmeida. The commission voted unanimously to appoint Joanna to the Committee. There was some discussion about whether the committee meets at the same time as the HC each month. If that is the case, HC will re-evaluate our monthly meeting to allow J. Sorensen to attend both meetings. Paratore said she would let the town know about the appointment so the website could be updated appropriately.

Next on the agenda was reviving the Historic Walking Tours in Ashland. The agenda item was proposed to the board by a community member Julie Nardone via e-mail. Nardone was invited to attend the meeting by both Paratore and DeAlmeida to discuss this item further but she is not present. Childress and DeAlmeida said they were not familiar with the tours. J. Neilsen said that according to Ms. Nardone's e-mail, the HC used to have a budget to pay a tour guide. HC does not currently have a budget that we are aware of. Paratore said she will e-mail Ms. Nardone for more information on the topic, seconded by K. Coleman. J. Sorensen wanted to know where the budget would come from. Paratore said she would ask Nardone where it came from previously and gather any more information on it.

Next on the agenda were updates on the Farmer's Market from L. Childress. Childress was put in touch with the organizer for the Ashland Farmer's Market and needs to download an

application for the HC to fill out once a date was decided. Childress presented several available dates in July, August Sept and October. After some discussion about individual availability and confirming that Farmer's Market will be operating without restrictions this year, the Commission decided to apply for a table on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>. The discussion then turned to what information the commission would distribute at the table and if there were pamphlets available for us to hand out. DeAlmeida said that the Ashland Historical Society would be a great resource for this. K.Coleman asked who will cover the cost of printing pamphlets and handouts. DeAlmeida generously offered to cover the costs personally but a conversation with Town Hall should be the first step to ask about potential budget. Commission went on a great tangent about the history of the town. Sorensen told the group that up until WWI, Ashland had street trolleys. DeAlmeida talked about how the old trolley path by the High School was being revitalized. The question about what was happening with the old Girl Scouts Camp was raised and whether the rumors about the Rec Dept taking it over were true. No conclusive answer. Returning to topic, Childress said she would download the application and submit for August 14<sup>th</sup>. J. Paratore advised the HC she spoke to Beth Reynolds at Town Hall about using the Corner Spot for the Historical Commission at some point this summer. Paratore was told that a member of Town Hall was organizing a community board night to highlight volunteer opportunities in town. The HC unanimously decided they were interested in participating. Paratore said she would reach out to Beth and ensure we are included.

The final item on the agenda is the ongoing Mill Buildings. DeAlmeida said he is having a meeting with Town Hall to see how we can get the buildings on the State's Historic Register. K.Coleman said that sounded like it was a great idea and that having Sorensen on the CPC would be helpful to generate support and to see how other boards felt about the subject. Coleman agreed that the State Historic Register was easier to get buildings on and has lots of power over what can and can't be done to the façade of a building.

The HC quickly summarized today's meeting and came up with a list of items to add to the next agenda, mostly follow ups from today's discussion topics.

With no other matters to discuss, Chairman DeAlmeida made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Neilsen. Vote 7-0.

**Next meeting JULY 20, 2021 AT 7PM.** Adjournment 8:03pm