



# Hingham Historical Commission

Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043

Historical Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 11, 2016 (Rescheduled from April 4, 2016)  
Hingham Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

Members Present – Chairman Bob Curley, Huck Handy, Steve Swett, Kathryn Black, Sarah Carolan, Signe McCullough.  
Vacancy - 1

Chairman Bob Curley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

## Jeffery and Mary Ann Born - Relief from Preservation Restrictions

Mr. and Mrs. Born and their Attorney Adam Costa appeared before the commission to discuss relief from the Preservation Restriction (PR) on the property. The Historical Commission holds the PR, which was transferred to the commission from the Historical Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Born subdivided their lot to create one additional parcel. They are seeking relief from the PR to transfer the new lot, and build a new house and barn on said lot. Mr. and Mrs. Born are also seeking a release of the PR covering the new lot upon completion of the building of the house and barn according to the plans submitted or as revised by the Historic Districts Commission. The new lot is located in the Lincoln Local Historic District. New construction and any future work on the premises will be subject to Historic Districts Commission review. See attached Decision.

## Tranquility Grove - Martha Bewick and Alec Macmillan

Martha Bewick and Alec Macmillan discussed the research Ms. Bewick has completed on Tranquility Grove, the site of an historic anti-slavery demonstration in Hingham. Ms. Bewick provided a draft of her report to the Commission and gave a Power Point Presentation of the highlights contained in the report. Mr. Macmillan wants the Commission to publish the report in a small booklet. Andrea Young said she would obtain printing costs from several sources. The Grove is located behind the Hersey Farm in Burns Memorial Park. Andrea Young will arrange a walk to the Grove with the Conservation Officer and former Fire Chief Mark Duff.

## New signs to mark the Town's Historic Bridges

Steve Dempsey discussed a proposal to replace the wooden signs that marked the sites of each of the Town's former bridges. He provided a picture of one of the many bridge signs and a list of the former bridges. The original signs deteriorated over time and were removed in the 1970's. Mr. Dempsey said that he knows someone who offered to make the signs and will obtain a sample sign, a replica of the old

sign, for the Commission to consider. Chairman Curley said that the Selectmen will have to approve the signs.

#### Proposal to Name Whitney Wharf Bridge

Town Historian Alexander Macmillan advised the Commission that he submitted a written proposal to the Harbor Development Committee to name the newly-constructed bridge between Whitney Wharf and 3 Otis Street in honor of Peter Hobart. Reverend Hobart and the Puritans who disembarked from their ship at the corner of what is now Ship and North Streets, are commemorated by a plaque on that corner. Mr. Macmillan reminded the Commission that in accordance with the Town's Naming By-Law it will have to opine on the proposal.

#### 115 South Pleasant Street - Request to Include on Inventory

Steve Dempsey provided a current photograph and history of his family home and property at 115 South Pleasant Street. Mr. Dempsey would like to have the property added to the Town's Inventory of Historical, Architectural and Archaeological assets. Chairman Curley made a motion to include 115 South Pleasant Street, the Owen Gunn House, on the Inventory. Commissioner Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Town History Presentation Series

Steve Dempsey discussed a film about the history of Hingham Harbor that he made in conjunction with HCAM. He introduced Eric Dresser, Director of HCAM, who confirmed that the project was 90% done. Mr. Dresser said there were several hours of footage that would have to be edited. In order to edit the film properly, the Commission should first determine its goals, i.e., what the Commission would like to accomplish with the footage. Mr. Dempsey originally planned to call the project "Hingham Then and Now TV", after his Facebook page. He has offered the footage to the Commission to use to launch the Commission's Town History Presentation Series. Commissioner Black said she would work with Mr. Dempsey to edit the footage. Commissioner's Carolan and McCullough volunteered to view the footage as well. Commissioner Black will schedule a time to view the footage.

#### Demolition By Neglect By-Law

Commissioner Curley distributed examples of other towns' Demolition By Neglect By-Laws and asked Commission members to read the handouts for discussion at a future meeting. Due to the late hour, the topic was tabled.

The minutes from the March 7, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Curley adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

The next meeting is on Monday April 4, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Young  
Administrator