

Town of Sutton  
Historic Commission Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2022

(Rescheduled from November due to maintenance issues in the Town Hall)

Meeting Started at 7:11 p.m. via Hybrid

**Members Present:**

Keith Downer – Chairman

Mark Brown – Clerk

Paul Dunn – Member

Christopher Leary – Member

Donna Rossio – Member (Remote)

**Members Absent:**

Rochelle Forsythe – Member

**Review and Approve Minutes:**

October 25, 2022 minutes were approved by vote. Vote carried a yes, by all voting members present.

**Public Forum:** None. However, Mary Townsend (Remote), who expressed interest in the Historic Commission via Volunteer Action Form is observing the meeting.

**Public Hearing:** None.

**Board Business:**

K. Downer was unable to attend the last Planning Board Meeting for the latest updates on the Unified Shade Tree alterations. Will call for an update.

**Old Business:**

K. Downer, attempted to contact Grey & Pape Heritage Management (Providence, RI), regarding the National Grid Power Line Refurbishment project. Two attempts prior to the October 30th deadline, to get additional schedule information yielded no response.

**New Business:**

Review of four(4) forms plus a cover letter prepared by D. Rossio for submission to Massachusetts Historic Commission to update their database:

**Area N/A Form 21 & 389** - 101 Central Turnpike/4 Lincoln Road (was once a Way Station)

**Area N Form 51** - 318 Boston Road ("The Beehive")

**Area E Form 235** - 150 Town Farm Road (Whittier Farm Farmhouse, fire training exercise)

**Area N Form 76** - 279 (275?) Boston Road (English style Barn, "Act of God" demolition, lightning strike induced fire)

These forms were distributed to the board members for review prior to this meeting and covered properties that have been demolished and need to be removed from the Massachusetts Historic Commission's registry.

M. Brown was missing the form for one of the four(4) properties: 150 Town Farm Road, received a copy via K. Downer during the meeting.

M. Brown had a question on the address for Are N Form 76 (275 vs 279 Boston Road), K. Downer will check and correct (if necessary) on form to be submitted.

P. Dunn had a question regarding whether or not one of these forms needed to be submitted for the Shaw Farm house that was demolished several years back. D. Rossio will look into whether this property was already submitted.

D. Rossio states the scope and intention of this exercise is to submit a few of these every month or two(2). Between 2005 and 2014 there were 57 demolitions of those 34 may have been reviewed for demolition delay (if Sutton had a demolition delay by-law) and 15 are in the Sutton Historic Commission records but NOT in the Massachusetts Historic Commission's. These demolitions also include barns and sheds, but the town records do not specify and the cost is used (via Assessor Records) to make the distinction if no other information is available.

D. Rossio requested a read through of the four(4) forms with possible interest in pushing for a Demolish Delay By-Law be added in the Town of Sutton which would allow the review of any property to be demolished for historical importance prior to destruction.

P. Dunn notes that the "101 Central Turnpike/4 Lincoln Road" property demolition felt rushed as was performed on a Sunday (unusual in construction) and may have warranted a closer look.

D. Rossio/K. Downer commented on "318 Boston Road" was "demolition by neglect" despite attempts to have the previous owners (property is part of the Gas Station/Center Store parcel) better maintain or transfer to the Town.

D. Rossio states that "150 Town Farm Road" was one of the most historic land/view scapes in Sutton. The original surveying consultant stated that it provided a view that has not been seen anywhere in Central Massachusetts since the early 1800's. Though many changes to the Town Farm Road area (new development etc.) unrelated to that specific property have occurred since that time altering the impact of that view (including a Cell Tower). K. Downer added that area leading up to this property had been used in several Motion Pictures and had the look and feel of the "Depression era Farms" of the 1930's.

D. Rossio indicates that while the main building at "279 (275?) Boston Road" still stands, significant alterations have been performed that would likely render it unrecognizable to its previous owners and would likely require other forms of updates with Massachusetts Historic Commission to reflect these changes. P. Dunn notes that during the estate auction of the main property many of the "artifacts" were dispersed throughout the community.

D. Rossio does not have a printer so requests that some one on the board handle the future printing of the official copies of these forms. K. Downer and M. Brown will work this out.

#### **Announcements / Correspondence:**

K. Downer:

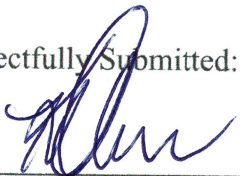
Massachusetts Historic Commission holding a meeting on MPPF rounds (Board discussed in October meeting and determined we would not be involved this year), Thursday December 15th from 2-4pm at the Millbury Public Library.

Follow up with Mary Townsend on the Volunteer Action Form she submitted.

Received a Volunteer Action Form on December 8th from a citizen expressing interest in the Historic Commission amongst others. He will reach out to them.

\* A motion to adjourn was made by P. Dunn and seconded by C. Leary at 8:06 p.m., it was carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

 1-31-23

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Keith Downer, Chair