

Town of Ipswich Architectural Preservation District Commission  
Certificate to Alter Meeting  
March 27, 2018  
Mary Conley Room - Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Ruth Strachan, Nancy Carlisle, Susan Dolan, John Fiske, Peter Bubriski, and Christopher Morse

Staff Present: None

Others Present: Timothie & Anthony Traverso, 38 East Street, Ipswich, MA  
Mat Cummings, Cummings Architects

**1. Call to Order.** Mr. Morse called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**2. Citizens Queries**

Mr. Morse asked if there were any citizens' queries. There were none.

**3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

As previous meeting minutes had not yet been prepared, no voting for acceptance of minutes was taken.

**4. 38 East Street Barn Relocation: Advisory Alteration**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the relocation of an existing barn on the Traverso property at 38 East Street. The barn had previously been determined by the Ipswich Historical Commission to be a "comparatively rare building from Ipswich's agricultural past, and as such significant and worthy of preservation". The barn relocation is intended to create better access to the property for a future new home, but it will enable stabilization of the structure for future re-purposing.

Mr. Cummings reviewed the existing condition of the barn with recent photographs and presented a developed site plan showing current and proposed locations of the barn. The proposed relocation is roughly 20' from its current siting. The gable end of the barn will no longer be facing East Street directly, but rather rotated roughly 45 degrees such that more of the long elevation comes into view from East Street.

The structure will be placed on a new 8" thick concrete foundation with stone retaining walls created as needed for grading and contouring. Recladding of the exterior and re-roofing will be done if and when it is determined necessary to do so. The building will remain a shell until its future use is determined.

Mr. Morse suggested the possibility of introducing a window on the gable end of the structure if there is evidence of a window having been in place once upon a time.

As the owners and architect voluntarily came before the APDC to discuss their plans and seek the Commission's advice, the meeting was a non-binding review. A vote was taken in an advisory alteration format and the APDC was approving of the project. The APDC was grateful the owners made the consultation possible and the owners were thanked for their determination to preserve the structure. It is

noteworthy their recognition of the barn as a historically significant agricultural building and an asset to the Town.

## **5. APD Guidelines**

Several APDC members feel that the APD Guidelines could use editing enhancements, a general discussion was opened regarding the Guideline's formatting and contents.

Some members were of the opinion that the information was repetitive and that better images ought to be substituted with existing ones. All of the images ought to be of houses specific to Ipswich and not from other locales. Other architectural descriptions ought to be more specific to houses in Ipswich as well.

The sections authored by John Fiske and Will Thompson (First Period and Second or Georgian Period respectively) have a logical format with bullet points at the end of the sections to summarize the important architectural features of the period. Subsequent sections for the later periods ought to follow this format more closely.

Mr. Morse offered to add more architectural definitions to the existing Definitions section.

## **6. Development of APDCs Elsewhere**

Christopher Skelley, Director of Local Government Programs with the Massachusetts Historical Commission is interested in conducting a workshop/round table discussion and tour of Ipswich's APD, which would be open to anyone wishing to participate. Such a discussion and tour would be of value to members of historical committees or towns interested in creating their own APD. The discussion is to center around our APDC's experiences and the work homeowners propose for their historic homes. Mr. Morse is to contact Chris Skelley directly with a probable date in June or September for a round table discussion. Chris Skelley will publicize the workshop through the MHC e-newsletter.

## **7. Closing**

Mr. Morse moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Ms. Strachan and Mr. Bubriski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Christopher Morse, APDC Chair.

Attachments: 38 East Street Drawings, Cummings Architects, dated 3-26-2018

Adopted May 29, 2018