

THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, April 10, 2023

Officers: Mariana Ovnic, Laura Gresh, Lindsay Randall, Rachel Meyer

Commissioners: Gordon Harris, Stephen Miles

Planning Department: Andrea Bates

Guest: Trevor Meek, Sarah Vickery

Commissioner Absent: Christine Sarantopoulos

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

- I. Citizen Queries
 - a. None.

- II. Chair comments & updates
 - a. Ovnic confirmed that the Hill Garage at Turner Hill will be restored.
 - b. Window Woman seminar was well attended.
 - c. Noted the passing of Linda Grimes (alternate historical commission member) and proposed donating a library book or other item in memory of Linda and to recognize all that she has done for the town and for the Historical Commission.

- III. Treasurers Report
 - a. Meyer reported on the FY 2023 budget to date.
 - b. Discussion for shifting some of the budget around to better reflect our broader mission that is more than plaques/flags. Discussion ensued.
 - c. **Motion 2023.4.1** Meyer moved to move \$250 from plaques/flag budget Miscellaneous/Other Expenses. Miles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. 2023 HC summer intern
 - a. The HC Intern will be an Intern-in-Residence to work on discreet projects that the HC needs done.
 - b. Ovnic will work with Bates to draft an Intern-in-Residence job description.
 - **Motion 2023.4.2** – Meyer moved to move \$817.56 from plaques/flag budget to Temporary Part Time. Miles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- V. Streetscapes guidelines update
 - a. Harris and Miles gave a presentation on 4.10.2023 to the Directors monthly meeting. Discussion ensued. All the Department directors now have a copy of the document.

- VI. Update on Section 3A
 - a. Randall reported on the recent Coffee & Conversation that was held on April 1, 2023.

- b. Randall shared about her recent lecture “Conversations without Words” as part of the 3A Task Force lecture series. The talk focused on the anthropology of architecture.
 - c. Randall shared that the 3A Task Force would be focusing on Affordable Housing for their outreach in the month of May and then focusing on the issue of Water for June. Discussion ensued.

- VII. Workforce Housing walking tour
 - a. Randall proposed showcasing the historical significance of workforce housing in Ipswich through guided walking tours of the Pole Alley and Greek neighborhood. This proposal aims to support the work of the 3A Task Force by celebrating the historical roots of workforce housing and helping the community gain a better understanding of its significance in Ipswich's past and present. SEE BELOW. Discussion ensued.
 - b. Ideas related to celebration of the neighborhoods (EBSCO hall or work with Church communities.) Maybe in July (early around the time of Nicolette’s death.) Mill Worker ancestry day. Discussion ensued. – Will revisit at the next meeting.

- VIII. Updike plaque unveiling
 - a. **Motion 2023.4.3** Meyer moved to allocate and expend \$250 for the reception for food and incidentals. Randall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Ovnich and Sarantopoulos met with Regan at the Choate Pub and they would like a photo of John Updike. They are also happy to create a cocktail/menu that celebrates this.
 - Pastrami sandwich and Pea soup (P&P)
 - Witches of East Lake cocktailTiming for April 28, 2023
 - Plaque unveiling (Choate Bridge Pub) 6 pm.
 - Reception, A&P reading, and Open Mic (Library) 6:30 – 8.
 - Choate Pub specialty food is running Friday - Sunday

- IX. Jenny Slew Park update
 - a. Confirmed with the Select Board that the park is currently unnamed.
 - b. Waiting to hear which Public Meeting it can be brought up at.

- X. MA Historical preservation plan feedback to MHC
 - a. Anyone wants to comment send email to Randall – copy Bates – by April 17, 2023.

- XI. Adopt minutes
 - a. **Motion 2023.4.4** Miles moved to approve the March minutes. Gresh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- XII. New business
 - a. Miles brought up that he will be talking with the Electric Light Advisory Board about the utilities on High Street. Discussion ensued.

- XIII. Adjournment
 - a. **Motion 2023.4.5** Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. Gresh seconded to adjourn the April Historical Commission meeting at 8:52 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Next meeting will be on May 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Randall
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes adopted on May 8, 2023

CELEBRATING THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF WORKFORCE HOUSING IN IPSWICH THROUGH WALKING TOURS

There have been recent negative reactions to the "workforce housing" concept in Ipswich, which has been linked to the 3A-MBTA mandate. The 3A Task Force, in partnership with the Historical Commission, proposes to offer walking tours of the Pole Alley and Greek neighborhoods to showcase how housing for workers has been an integral part of Ipswich's historical fabric. This proposal aims to celebrate the historical roots of workforce housing and create a better understanding of its significance in Ipswich's past and present.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this proposal are:

1. To showcase the historical significance of workforce housing in Ipswich through guided walking tours of the Pole Alley and Greek neighborhoods.
2. To educate residents and visitors about the importance of providing affordable housing for workers in Ipswich.
3. To dispel any negative perceptions associated with workforce housing by highlighting its historical roots in the town.
4. To encourage public discourse and debate on the issue of affordable housing for workers and its impact on Ipswich's future.

Methodology:

These tours will be led by members of the Historical Commission, who will provide insights into the history of workforce housing in Ipswich and its significance for the town's development. The tours will be open to the public and advertised through various channels, including social media, local newspapers, and flyers.

Expected Outcomes:

By offering walking tours of the Pole Alley and Greek neighborhoods, this proposal aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of the historical significance of workforce housing in Ipswich.
2. Enhanced public understanding of the benefits of providing affordable housing for workers.
3. Promotion of public discourse and debate on the issue of affordable housing for workers and its impact.
4. Dissemination of accurate information about the 3A-MBTA mandate and its implications for Ipswich.