

THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, July 24, 2023

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

Commissioners: Gordon Harris, Stephen Miles

Planning Department: Andrea Bates

Guest: Eliza Speidel (IHC/Planning Dept. intern), Ken Purington

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Rachel Meyer participated remotely by phone. Gordon Harris arrived at 8:01 pm.

- I. Citizen Queries
 - a. Ken Purington attended the Juneteenth celebration and asked if there would be a permanent marker at the site. Rachel responded that there is a permit by the DPW, but that wording has not been finalized, and pricing out the permanent sign. Ken left his contact information with Andrea.

- II. Announcements & Planning Director update
 - a. Mariana announced that the Select Board unanimously supported the installation of the Freeman Plaque. It will be installed on September 16, 2023.
 - b. Andrea reported that Historic New England is holding their conference on Nov 2 and 3.
 - c. Andrea introduced Eliza Speidel as the summer IHC/Planning Dept. intern.
 - d. Andrea reported that Brendan Conboy has started as the new Planning Director.

- III. Dam removal permitting process update
 - a. Mariana reported that the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) will be getting numerous permits that will engage the public. Discussion ensued.

- IV. Historic preservation plan discussion
 - a. Eliza Speidel presented about the mechanics of a Historic Preservation Plan.

- V. FY 2024 priorities
 - a. Mariana wants to hold the next IHC in September as a planning meeting related to the trajectory of the projects for the IHC, including but not limited to:
 - Historic Preservation Plan
 - Certified Local Government status
 - Jenny Slew Park signage
 - Interpretive sign of the Town Wharf
 - Increase the membership of the IHC

- VI. Update on Section 3A with discussion
 - a. Andrea reported that Ipswich was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP). Discussion ensued.

- VII. Adopt minutes
- a. **Motion 2023.7.1.** Gordon moved to accept the May meeting minutes. Stephen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Motion 2023.7.2.** Gordon moved to accept the June meeting minutes. Stephen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. New business
- a. Preservation agreements were brought up regarding Town Counsel reviewing the documents. Discussion ensued.
 - b. Freeman Plaque will be installed on September 16, 2023. The role that IHC will be playing in the lead-up and/or ceremony was brought up. Discussion ensued.
 - c. August 7, 2023, is the Mary Conley Awards at the Select Board. Discussion ensued.
 - Gordon will represent the IHC for the introductions.
 - Gordon will give the award to the Barn at 12 Woods Lane
 - Laura will present the award to Isaac Lord House 83 High Street.
- IX. Adjournment
- a. **Motion 2023.7.3** Lindsay moved to adjourn the meeting. Gordon seconded to adjourn the July Historical Commission meeting at 8:59 pm. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. No meeting in August. Next meeting will be September 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Randall
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on September 11, 2023