

THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, September 11, 2023

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

Commissioners: Gordon Harris, Stephen Miles

Planning Department: Andrea Bates

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Rachel Meyer participated remotely by phone.

- I. Citizen Queries
 - a. None

- II. 2024 project prioritization, including historic preservation
 - a. Gordon discussed his concerns about how specific neighborhoods are vulnerable to development.
 - b. Discussion about APD and what it can and cannot oversee occurred.
 - c. Lindsay Randall brought up the fact all preservation planning is built on MACRIS data.
 - d. Mariana attended a workshop with Jenn Doherty (MHC) about MACRIS.
 - e. Mariana went over the SWOT analysis.
 - Strengths (Other) – 3 Tools: Demo delay, Preservation Agreements, APD; Good communication with other departments and committees.
 - Weakness (Other) – No actual budget (and need to be comfortable asking Town Meeting for money); Downtown does not realize that they are a historic downtown in a way that they could leverage.
 - Opportunities (Other) – Advocate for Preservation Planners in the Planning Dept.

Before We Dive In...Facing Reality

I N T E R N A L	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wealth of historic resources • Depth and range of knowledge • Enthusiastic/Creative board • Historic Ipswich.net • Others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small number of members • No existing plan (piecemeal approach) • Limited coordination with local government entities, ADP, history museum • Lack of higher-level degrees for CLG • Lack of organized public support/interest • Others?
E X T E R N A L	Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh look at resources: include archaeological sites, landscapes, redefine "historic resource" • Create centralized, publicly-available plan • Address covenants, zoning, development, tourism, design • Increase public engagement • Increase HC membership • Capture state/local funding • Others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning • Development • Economic (?) • Climate change • Complexity of the process • NIMBYism • Others?

- f. Discussion about Demo Delay date as well as protocols for Demo Delay occurred.

- g. Andrea will reach out to the Town Treasurer of the Bowen Fund for the balance.

Near-term Needs and Priorities

- Determine scope of the plan: what's right for Ipswich?
- Gain funding: letter of intent for funding from the state is due mid-November
- Determine level of interest from the town, need for matching funds
 - Spring town meeting?
- Generate timelines
- Collect already-available resources
 - Can we reuse, revise?
- Review other plans – especially Sudbury's plan, which is relatively recent and has a very nice action plan with their HC recommendations and priorities
 - It's on their website
 - See especially Chapter V Action Matrix

III. Jenny Slew Park plaque

- a. Rachel shared the quote for the Jenny Slew sign from Lexington Sign & Graphic: \$2,050 (and \$130 for file setup)
- b. **Motion 2023.9.1** Rachel moved to fund \$1,025 for the sign. Mariana seconded. 3 voted yes. 3 voted no. The motion failed.
- c. Laura and Gordon will talk to two other sign makers about a quote.

IV. Summer intern work recap

- a. Andrea reported on Eliza's (Planning Dept. and IHC intern) summer work

V. Summary of issues identified on preservation agreement

- a. The 36 North Main Restriction and other IHT Restrictions were discussed.
- b. Andrea will confirm with Town Council about 36 North Main Street preservation agreement.
- c. Andrea will coordinate with Gordon about finishing the final details of the Preservation Restriction project started by the Summer intern (Eliza).

VI. Winthrop Bridge repairs

- a. Andrea shared a brief update about the project: They intend to maintain the aspects of the wooden bridge. This is a joint project between Ipswich and Hamilton. The bridge now needs a full reconstruction, so the project will take longer than initially anticipated.
- b. Gordon will talk with Rick and/or Frank about what to do with the old planks.

VII. Freeman Plaque Commemoration event

- a. Gordon reported that the event is this weekend and shared details for the commemoration. The formal sign will not be done in time for the event.
- b. **Motion 2023.9.2** Stephen moved to reimburse Gordon for the \$183.72 for two temporary signs. Laura seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. 18 Poplar St. preservation agreement

- a. Stephen shared that he and Ingrid Miles would put a preservation restriction on the timber frame barn.

- b. **Motion 2023.9.3** Gordon moved to accept the preservation restriction. Mariana seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- IX. Meeting format
 - a. Mariana discusses the concerns related to COVID and other illnesses.
 - b. The IHC will meet in person, but everyone will wear masks and distance in the meeting.
 - c. IHC will raise with the town to invest in better equipment to allow with hybrid.

- X. Adopt minutes
 - a. **Motion 2023.9.4** Gordon moved to accept the July meeting minutes. Stephen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- XI. New business
 - a. Gordon reported about the Choate Bridge repairs.
 - b. Laura could not get in touch with Dr. Minz about Downtown Revitalization

- XII. Adjournment
 - a. **Motion 2023.9.5** Stephen moved to adjourn the meeting. Laura seconded to adjourn the July Historical Commission meeting at 9:17 pm. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Next meeting will be October 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Randall
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on October 16, 2023