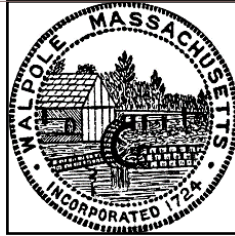


**Members:**

Jennifer Karnakis, Chair  
Christine Cochrane, Vice Chair  
Roger Turner, Regular Member  
Kathleen A. Birtwell, Regular Member  
Justin Caron, Regular Member  
Rob Doane, Associate Member  
Michael Amaral, Associate Member



**Walpole Historical Commission**  
Walpole Town Hall  
135 School Street  
Walpole, MA 02081

<http://www.walpole-ma.gov/walpole-historical-commission>

**A meeting of the Walpole Historical Commission was held on November 19, 2019 at Walpole Town Hall, Room 116.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

**Jennifer Karnakis, Regular Member, Chair  
Christine Cochrane, Regular Member, Vice Chair  
Roger Turner, Regular Member  
Kathleen A. Birtwell, Regular Member  
Michael Amaral, Associate Member  
Rob Doane, Associate Member**

**The following member was not in attendance: Justin Caron, Regular Member**

**The following guest was in attendance later during the meeting: Michael Yanovitch, Building Commissioner**

**Chair Jenn Karnakis opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.**

**Correspondence:**

**Our budget is due on Friday, December 6. There was a discussion of our need for a part-time secretary and new information regarding the tax writeoff program. The group went over Jenn's proposed budget.**

**She also advised that the copy for the Annual Report is due January 17. Numerous suggestions were made as to how this can be expedited by the deadline.**

#### **Old Business:**

**2020 Goals will be tabled for this meeting. Jenn said we can finalize our goals and prioritize our efforts at that January 2020 meeting. She also noted that she wants us to put on a workshop in March or April.**

**Jenn has received no information regarding Walpole 2024 but will continue to make it clear to town officials that we want to participate and to be represented on any board or committee that is established to oversee it.**

**Roger Turner spoke about his planned Walpole's Lost Properties project, where plaques memorializing Bird Machine, Walpole Woodworkers, Kendall, Fales, Lewis Mfg. and other lost industries will be placed at their former locations.**

**Michael Amaral wanted to polish the plaque at Memorial Park Bridge. He will also come up with a list of locations that could be nominated for placement on the National Historic Register.**

#### **Building Commission Online Permitting System:**

**Building Commissioner Michael Yanovitch was welcomed. He explained that Walpole has an online Permit Portal that easily could accommodate notifications to the WHC. Citizens can search for permit applications by contractor, location, etc. He and Jenn agreed to work together on the creation of a user-friendly system that would ensure properties 100 years or older will be flagged for our attention. The system also archives all filings and allows for the attachment of supplementary documents. He will be sure to notify us of any demolition permits that could impact properties within the purview of our bylaw. Jenn emphasized that the WHC is particularly interested in blocking any end-runs by contractors or owners in order to circumvent the bylaw.**

Commissioner Yanovitch also said that we need a better way to date homes other than the Assessor's Office's designation of an old building's age as "1900". He added that his office does check MACRIS for buildings so designated. He also wants further clarification of the term "demolition".

He promised to create a sample site (not online) that the WHC could review. He also said that the Commission could also record all of its approvals, denials, hearings, etc. online on this system.

Commission members thanked him for his attendance and helpful participation and will work with his office toward those goals.

#### **New Business:**

Rob Doane showed WHC members a sample plaque from his workplace. It was agreed that we will discuss the use of such plaques by homeowners. Jenn added that this would be a wonderful project for Walpole 2024.

Michael Amaral had sent a letter to the Homeowners Association at the Estates of Walpole, seeking permission to move the interpretive granite monument to Bird Park. He also wrote to the Trustees. He has not received replies but will keep us informed.

Katie Birtwell spoke further about "Stories of Historic Walpole". The idea for this project is that much of our history has slipped away through multiple demolitions and the time will rapidly come when people will not remember Bird, Kendall, or any other lost industry or the many people who raised their families working there. It is hoped that through this project, our citizens will come to realize that they themselves are historians and the preservation of their memories is a worthwhile and important task. If approved, this will be a Town Walpole 2024 project that will represent a collaboration among Walpole's various departments, agencies, and commissions.

**Katie told the group that she had met recently with Kerri McManama, the director of the senior center, about the proposed project for Walpole 2024. Kerri agreed to help any way she could and the two discussed how best to conduct interviews of Walpole citizens at the senior center.**

**If the Commission approves the project, Katie will next meet with Tamarah Green, the Executive Director of Walpole Media, about the filming or aural recording of the interviews. She is also drafting a permission/release form.**

**As 2024 approaches, Katie feels that the Town can produce books, pamphlets, videos, downloadable interviews, displays, etc. for the benefit of Walpole citizens who wish to learn more about town history. In addition, these interviews can also incorporate the digital preservation of photos or artifacts that persons interviewed might want to share.**

**Jenn made the following motion:**

**The Walpole Historical Commission authorizes Kathleen A. Birtwell to initiate the Stories of Historic Walpole Project and to collaborate with Walpole Council on Aging, Walpole High School, Walpole Media, and any other Town Board or Commission or Agency as necessary, with a view toward gathering and presenting historical stories for the Walpole 2024 celebration.**

**Roger Turner seconded. The motion PASSED 3-0-1. The group then discussed equipment and the need to make backup copies of all interviews.**

**Adjournment**

**Jenn announced that our next meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2020 and wished everyone an enjoyable holiday season.**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a unanimous 4-0-0 vote at 8:43 PM.**

**Respecfully submitted,**

**Katie Birtwell, Regular Member**