

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 September 26, 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**

The following members were not in attendance: Justin Caron, Regular Member; Rob Doane, Associate Member.

Chair Jenn Karnakis opened the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Old Business:

We discussed our 2019-2020 goals, including increasing our social media presence, conducting seminars and workshops, seeking grants, and Walpole's Lost Properties plaques.

Michael Amaral wants to seek placing the railroad tunnel that goes under Route 1A on the National Register. He has made contact with the MBTA and feels that this project may be acceptable to them and might also correlate with the planned 1A upgrade.

The Endean Estate site was next discussed. Glenn Maffei might be able to find an Eagle Scout who is willing to clean up the site, but liability and contractual issues continue to prevent public

access to the location showing the history of Endean on a granite monument. Michael Amaral suggested that we relocate the monument and perhaps the granite roller from the housing development to Bird Park and will make contact with the Trustees of Reservations to see if this is possible. In this regard, Katie Birtwell made a motion to give WHC approval toward Michael pursuing the relocation and Roger Turner seconded the motion. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The 2020 Budget was next discussed. Roger Turner explained the details of the process and reiterated that we need to ask for a part-time secretary.

New Business:

The reconfiguration of the Old Town House Reuse Committee was also discussed and it appears that the WHC will have one member and there will be four persons at large. A copy of the "Charge for Town House Reuse Committee" was distributed and discussed. Our major concern is that the pursuit of redevelopment of the downtown will not result in the demolition of the Old Town House. The necessity of our doing everything we can to preserve it was thoroughly discussed.

Jenn Karnakis said that our new Building Commissioner will meet with us in the near future, perhaps at the October or November meeting. Such a meeting is vital in that the WHC must be notified immediately if it appears that a building over 100 years old will be targeted for demolition.

Katie Birtwell announced her idea called "Stories of Historic Walpole", a town project for Walpole 2024 that would entail collecting stories and recollections about our town's past from citizens who remember it. Initially, interviews might be conducted at the senior center. She will speak to the director and get back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a unanimous 4-0-0 vote at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Birtwell, Regular Member