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

A meeting of the Walpole Historical Commission was held on July 25, 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
Justin Caron, Regular Member
Michael Amaral, Associate Member**

The following member was not in attendance: Rob Doane, Associate Member.

Chair Jenn Karnakis called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She asked for a vote to take 1 Peach Street out of order as an agenda item as its representative, Ann Piso, was present. Christine Cochrane made the motion; Katie Birtwell seconded it. It passed unanimously 4-0-0.

Ms. Piso addressed the group, telling us that she plans to live with her daughter, the owner, at 1 Peach Street in an inlaw's apartment. In order to build it, they plan to demolish a greenhouse built in the sixties, a family room addition built in the eighties, and a single-car garage (formerly part of a carriage house) potentially over 100 years old. There are also drainage problems with the current portions. She added that she and her daughter are very interested in the history of the house (an Allen House once belonging to Melzer Allen's son) and will maintain the historic appearance and reuse old components to the greatest extent possible.

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Roger Turner said he spoke to the architect on the project. We need to schedule a site visit once the application is complete as it is a very historic house. Jenn Karnakis informed Ms. Piso that she needs to submit a complete demolition permit so it can be scheduled once the building commissioner forwards it to the WHC. A tentative date of Thursday, August 1 at 6:30 PM was set for a site visit pending receipt of the completed demolition application.

Jenn Karnakis asked whether we should open the public forum at this time. Roger Turner made a motion to this effect and Christine Cochrane seconded. The vote passed unanimously 4-0-0.

Willa Bandler introduced herself to the group and said that she is speaking to many stakeholders about a proposed inclusionary housing bylaw. It will include affordable housing requirements for future building projects in Walpole, with a designated formula defining what is considered affordable. This will be on the warrant for the fall town meeting. She said that 100 towns, including Mansfield and Yarmouth, have similar bylaws. She distributed a checklist which requests input from the Commission. Ms. Karnakis said that there will be an August 6 presentation made to the Board of Selectmen that our members can watch to learn more. A discussion ensued and the open forum was closed.

* Ms. Karnakis stated that we will review our goals at a future meeting.

* She added that she has heard nothing so far about a Walpole 2024 Committee. In this regard, Roger Turner is looking into doing a history of Walpole's "lost places". He wants to speak with numerous organizations about this idea. He has the 1924 and 1974 town reports but is missing records from 1824 and 1874. Ms. Karnakis asked if the Commission or the Historical Society should spearhead this; Roger was of the opinion that since it was a town celebration planned for 2024 that town officials should do it. Ms. Karnakis added that our participation should be discussed as one of our future goals. In this

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regard, Christine Cochrane asked if we should ask Chris Skelly from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to put on another workshop for us; Ms. Karnakis said that she will ask him.

* Ms. Karnakis said that there is no update on house signs at this time.

* Justin Caron said that a tour of Peggy Lawton is a possibility.

* Ms. Karnakis stated that Rob Doane wanted to know if our members wanted him to pursue the creation of Facebook and Instagram pages for the WHC. We unanimously thought that he should. The pages can be used to highlight historic properties in Walpole and to encourage public enthusiasm about preserving our history.

* Under New Business, Michael Amaral said that he had watched the Old Town Hall (or House) presentation and noted that it had no suggestion of the building being used as a town building. He said the presenters picked a political slant and want to sell it. He added that Norwood, Westwood, and Canton all use their old town hall buildings. He said the presentation should have been more balanced. A discussion ensued. Ms. Karnakis will find out when the next meeting on this topic will be posted. She suggested to Mr. Amaral that he be present there as a private citizen to share these views via a prepared statement.

* Michael Amaral wanted to seek national register status for the railroad tunnel that runs from Union Station. He said that Kathy Brumer, a professional researcher, supports this effort as West Walpole red shale was used in its creation and the railroad has always been an important part of Walpole history. He said he needs to speak with the MBTA and local banks about funding. Ms. Karnakis said this can be discussed at a future meeting.

* Roger Turner advised the group to think about the next budget. Documentation of lost properties and funding memorial plaques

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should be considered for addition. This project can be publicized on social media to generate interest and respect for Walpole's past.

* Justin Caron apologized for having to step down as chair due to urgent job issues. All thanked him for his service in this regard.

* Jenn Karnakis said our meetings will be the 4th Thursday of each month.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a unanimous 4-0-0 vote at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Birtwell, Regular Member