

APPROVED

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 June 19, 2019 at Walpole Town Hall, Room 116.

The following members were in attendance:
Christine Cochrane, Regular Member, Vice Chair
Roger Turner, Regular Member
Kathleen Birtwell, Regular Member
Jennifer Karnakis, Regular Member
Rob Doane, Associate Member

The following members were not in attendance: Justin Caron, Regular Member and Chair; Michael Amaral, Associate Member.

Vice Chair Christine Cochrane called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She announced that Chair Justin Caron is stepping down due to urgent work obligations and that we will need to elect a new chairperson. She nominated Jenn Karnakis and made a motion that she be elected to this position. Katie Birtwell seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The vote passed unanimously 4-0-0.

There were no new appointments.

*** A discussion about the condition of 585 Washington Street ensued. Guests present were Kevin and Mary Kelly. This property was extensively burned and its balloon construction added to the fire damage. The Kellys submitted an engineer's report detailing the damage caused thereby and recommending demolition. Mary Kelly added that her family had owned the house for around 70 years and family members worked for both Bird & Sons and Walpole**

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Woodworkers. The owner, who is 90 years old, wants to rebuild a single-family ranch house on that location. The property is not listed on MACRIS and was extensively remodeled in the sixties.

Christine Cochrane made the following motion, which was seconded by Roger Turner:

Due to the fact that the fire damage was extensive and we have a structural inspection report recommending demolition and rebuilding under current building codes and, based on review of an absence of MACRIS reports and photographs of the house, 585 Washington Street in East Walpole is not architecturally or historically significant.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

Jenn Karnakis will send a copy of the vote in a letter to Building Commissioner Yanovitch tomorrow and send a copy to the Kellys. Mr. Kelly will electronically send photographs of the house to her so the WHC will have them for archival purposes.

*** There was a brief discussion of a vinyl siding job pending for 2 High Plain Street. Since this does not constitute demolition, it was the consensus of the members that the WHC has no purview and believe the matter properly belongs with the building commissioner's office. Katie Birtwell made a motion that the WHC take no action; Christine Cochrane seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.**

*** Under New Business, Jenn Karnakis advised that we received a MHC project notification form concerning the Franklin Line Double Track for review and comment. Two new towers -- part of a newer communications system for the railroad -- will be built. Roger Turner explained that we were notified about the work done because there will be restoration of some second tracks. After a discussion, it was noted that the report states that no impacts on historic resources are expected. Roger will make copies and will distribute them at a future meeting. No comment by the WHC will be made at this time.**

* The Old Town Hall Reuse Committee made a presentation before the Selectmen and the latter decided to wait 30 days and hold a second meeting in order to give everyone the chance to read the report. Former member Sam Obar is working on putting the report online. The meeting will be posted and public; Roger said that the report presents different scenarios and costs for each are laid out for the selectmen to peruse.

* Christine Cochrane brought up the Peach Street scenic road for discussion as the property at 38 Peach recently had its water service cut off. She also noted that the owner of 1 Peach Street wants to demolish part of the house and build an inlaw apartment and that an application for demolition is expected soon.

* The WHC received a notice from the town about the upcoming budget deadline. A discussion ensued about supplies and what expenditures should be made by that time. The process for purchasing was also discussed.

* Rob Doane mentioned that he is working on creating Facebook and Instagram pages for the WHC and there should be an upcoming agenda item about this so he can learn what members want to appear on them.

* Roger Turner said we need to discuss plaques or road signs for "lost properties" that once existed in Walpole. Jenn will look into the possibility of using grants or community resources for these, and possibly also tying such a project with her current house sign project.

* Our next meeting will be July 25th at 6:30.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a unanimous 4-0-0 vote at 7:31 PM.

Respecfully submitted,

Katie Birtwell, Regular Member