


<b>Members</b> Justin Caron, Chair Christine M. Cochrane, Vice Chair Kathleen A. Birtwell Jennifer Karnakis Roger F. Turner, Jr.		<b>Walpole Historical Commission</b> 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 May 15, 2019 at the Walpole Public Library.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

**Christine Cochrane, Regular Member, Vice Chair**

**Roger Turner, Regular Member**

**Kathleen Birtwell, Regular Member**

**Jenn Karnakis, Regular Member**

**Michael Amaral, Associate Member**

**Rob Doane, Associate Member**

**The following member(s) was not in attendance: Justin Caron, Regular Member, Chair**

**Ms. Cochrane called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.**

### **Summary**

\* Ms. Karnakis attended a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission titled "Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning". She stated that it was helpful for updating historic properties surveys and master plans. She added that May is historic preservation month, and suggested that we tie it to Walpole Day next year. She would like to see the group educating new owners of historic properties any previous surveys on their homes to raise awareness. She went over the flow chart and slides with the members, emphasizing the usefulness of local historic districts.

A discussion ensued relating to such possibilities in Walpole. It was decided to readdress this topic after the June election as the Board of Selectmen would need to establish a study commission. Mr.

Turner also added that we should get involved early in the capital budget process.

\* Under the topic of Correspondence, Ms. Cochrane informed the group that we received a copy of our budget. A discussion of reimbursements ensued.

\* Ms. Cochrane updated us on the Town Hall Reuse Committee activity. Right now, the building is largely inaccessible to the public. The Reuse Committee will submit a report on June 11 and the Board of Selectmen will make a determination as to the fate of the old Town Hall after that time. Various ideas about promoting the use of the building were discussed.

\* Mr. Doane will set up a Facebook page for the Commission. It could include a "feature of the month" to highlight items of historic interest in town.

\* Mr. Turner brought up the idea of having plaques placed around town to commemorate vanished industries, such as Kendall, Fales, and Woodworkers. Plaques for rivers and streams were also discussed.

\* 919 East Street is on hold insofar as the Commission is concerned because the application is incomplete.

\* Mr. Amaral wanted to put railroad tunnel preservation on the agenda for the next meeting. Roger suggested that he write up a proposal as to the details and scope.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Birtwell