



Town of Hudson

Historical Commission

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Tel: (978) 562-2948

Meeting Minutes August 14, 2023

1. Roll Call

Chair Peter Breton called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Members present: Peter Breton, Paul Shultz; Joanne Wheeler, Rachel Lynde, Jon Schmidt

Staff present: Pam Helinek

2. Hudson History Signs

Rachel Lynde reported that she and Jon Schmidt were preparing to send text for the Hudson History Signs to Town Historian David Bonazzoli for review. They hope to send the text by September 15. Jon Schmidt shared some of the preliminary text with the Commission.

3. Mass Central Rail Trail Signage

Mark Terra-Salomão sent a link with draft signage for the MCRT. The Commission can submit comments to him or Pam Helinek.

4. Historical Survey

Historian Stacy Spies sent an update explaining that she had not yet had time to enter her final edits and complete the submissions to MACRIS. She hopes to finish another project and get back to the Hudson survey soon.

5. Liberty Park

The Commission discussed the statue at Liberty Park which is in good shape except for a patina. Paul Shultz said that he thought a patina was ok on an older statue. Jon Schmidt said that the sword might need some work. Peter Breton said that the canon might need some cleanup. He will reach out to veterans' services director Brian Stearns for his thoughts.

6. Demo Delay Bylaw

Mark Terra-Salomão sent an update reporting that Jenn Doherty from the Mass Historical Commission had agreed to review the draft demo delay bylaw and provide feedback and suggestions. Jon Schmidt suggested including buildings greater than 50 years old, rather than choosing a specific date. The current draft of the bylaw includes buildings built before 1945. Paul Shultz said that the Commission had discussed this and decided on 1945 because after that a large number of track houses were built that were not historically significant. Rachel Lynde said that some of these homes might seem more interesting or significant in the future. Jon Schmidt said that two factors to consider were significance and integrity. Rachel Lynde commented that the current draft could be interpreted to include retrofits and upgrades and it should be limited to demolition. Jon Schmidt suggested talking to other towns with Demo Delay Bylaws and watching the MHC webinars on the subject. Paul Shultz said that he and Mark Terra-Salomão had done so when Mark was first drafting the bylaw, and that he believed the decision to use a firm date rather than building age came from one of the videos. He

agreed that it was worthwhile for all the Commissioners to watch the MHC video. Pam Helinek reminded the Commission that if the bylaw were to pass Town Meeting they would become a regulatory Commission with much more responsibility and a more demanding meeting schedule than they currently had.

7. Minutes – June 12, 2023

The Commission tabled the vote until the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM. The Commission agreed to move the meeting date to October 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.