

**Local Historic District Study Committee Meeting**  
**12/6/2011**  
**Conference room, Town Hall**

PRESENT: Phillip Shaver, Lynda Faye, Wendy Kohler, James Wald, Jerry Guidera (chair), Bill Gillen; Nathaniel Malloy (Planning Dept.)  
Member of the public: Tom Ehrgood, Rachel Quetti (a sophomore journalism UMass student on assignment)

ABSENT: Tini Sawicki

**1. Announcements and minutes:**

- A. No announcements.
- B. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without comment.
- C. Handouts: Agenda 12/6/2011, Local Historic District Study Committee Preliminary Study Report Checklist, Minutes of meeting 4/19/2011, Local Historic District Flow Chart, map of Local Historic District Study Area showing the Dickinson National Register District and the Local Historic District Study Area.
- D. Tom Ehrgood spoke as a member of the public. He described how two neighbors had made improvements to their properties on Lessey St. this summer: roof replacement, door replacements. His concern was that if the local historic district were approved, these projects would have been delayed and maybe not built by now.
- E. A brief debate developed, however, it was noted that public comment is not an agenda item for debate. The next item of business was then taken up.
- F. Committee resolution: The committee expires next year. What does the committee intend to do? The committee discussed whether it should shelve its work and quit or attempt to present its work to the spring town meeting. The possibility of the town meeting not approving the district is strong. It was noted that in other cities and towns the first presentation was, at the very least, educational and part of the approval process. The process typically takes several town meetings. It was agreed that the committee will present to the 2012 spring town meeting in May.

**2. Old Business**

- A. Boundary of the proposed LHD: The committee believes that the area proposed to be added to the Dickinson National Register District, which is the Dickinson meadow, should be deleted from the proposal since it adds a number of potential political obstacles. If the federal district were reduced in size, for instance on the north side back to the Lessey St. line, then another debate could develop. It was agreed to proceed with the federal district outline at this point. The vote proposed by Jerry Guidera and seconded by Gillen was unanimous.
- B. Design guidelines are completed and will be sent to the town counsel for review.
- C. Administration of LHD will be by the building commissioner or other qualified staff and will be noted in an amendment to par. 11.4 of the proposed bylaws. The expectation is that the building commissioner, or other qualified staff, will make a determination as to whether or not the project is in compliance with the design guidelines, or not. If so, the project is processed as any other permit with no delay.

**3. New Business**

- A. A public forum will be held close to the town meeting after MHC approval. Preparation for that: a Mass. Historic Commission approval must be received. Faye, Shaver and Wald will work together to complete the study report which is a prerequisite to MHC approval.

**4. Public Comments**

- A. Tom Ehrgood's comments referred to the overburdening of residents of the district with vague rules and giving discretion to a commission made up of citizens.

**5. Adjournment.**

- A. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



William V. Gillen, Clerk  
RJ;237 Mtg 12-6

cc: LHDSC Committee  
Nate Malloy