

North Prospect- Lincoln-Sunset Local Historical District Study Committee Meeting
3:00 pm, February 2, 2017
2nd Floor Library, Planning Department, Town Hall

PRESENT: Maurianne Adams, Steve Bloom, Paul Bockelman (Town Manager), Geoffrey Kravitz (Economic Development Director), Ann Sutliff, Brandon Toponce (Planning Department), Jim Wald (Select Board), Ed Wilfert.

ABSENT: Suzannah Fabing, Bill Gillen, Philip Shaver

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Sarah la Cour, Tom Ehrgood, Chris Skelly (Director of Local Programs, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Sean McWilliams.

1. Announcements and Minutes:

A) Minutes of prior meeting were approved without comment.

B) Handouts: Email from Philip Shaver on “LHDSC Next Steps;” Email from Sean McWilliams on “Information Request for Amherst LHD; Email from Maurianne Adams on “Clarifying our expectations for the Feb 1st Planning Board meeting with our LHD Study Committee representatives;” Email from Jack Jemsek attached to “List of LHD Supporters” submitted to Planning Board by Steve Bloom.

2. Discussion with Chris Skelly, Director of Local Programs, Massachusetts Historical Commission

A) Answers by Mr. Skelly to questions from the Study Committee:

*There is NO mandated threshold for support in a neighborhood for an LHD.

*Most LHDs are created without design standards in place, although design standards are recommended to be drafted after the formation of an LHD.

*Design standards are guidelines, not absolute.

*Design standards are not uniform and should be created to serve a particular LHD’s goals and needs. The design standards for Salem, MA were suggested as an example of standards for an LHD encompassing a wide range of architectural styles and periods.

*Zoning regulates use, not an LHD.

*The “hardship” exemption for a certificate of appropriateness is intended to address an individual building’s peculiarities.

*If the proposed LHD is approved by the town and its administration placed under the auspices of the current Dickinson LHD Commission, a name change to the “Amherst LHD Commission” was recommended.

*Submitting a Final Study Report to the Massachusetts Historical Commission is not mandatory. The endorsement by the MHC of a Preliminary Study Report is sufficient to have legal authority.

3. Study Report

A) It was reported that at its February 1, 2017 meeting, the Planning Board voted 5-2 to recommend passage of the LHD to Town Meeting, minus the properties on North Pleasant Street and two properties on McClellan Street which are zoned for Limited Business. An earlier vote by the Planning Board at the meeting to recommend a larger LHD, including the properties on North Pleasant Street and McClellan Street, failed, 2-5.

After much discussion, the following motion was made by the Study Committee:

“So moved that the North Prospect-Lincoln-Sunset Local Historic District eliminate the properties along North Pleasant Street and the two properties that are zoned for limited business use, 10 McClellan Street and 16 McClellan Street.”

The motion passed, 3-0-1, with Ed Wilfert abstaining.

B) The Study Committee discussed preparations and strategies for a public meeting, as mandated by state law, to be scheduled for March. Emphasis was placed on community outreach and increasing the LHD’s profile.

4. Committee Administration

A) The following motion was made by Steve Bloom:

“So moved that Maurianne Adams be elected a Vice-Chair of the Study Committee.”

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

5. Next Meeting(s)

A) Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

6. Adjournment

A) Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Bloom, Clerk
cc: LHDSC
Nathaniel Malloy