

MINUTES  
**Hamilton Historic District Commission**  
April 20, 2017

Members Present: Tom Catalano, Chair, Stefanie Serafini, Edwin Howard, George Connolly, Elizabeth Wheaton and Jack Hauck.

Staff Present: Dorr Fox

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Tom Catalano opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Jack Hauck requested a modification to the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting. Mr. Hauck made a motion to approve the minutes with the modification. Elizabeth Wheaton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**APPLETON FARMS (TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS): RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Cindy Brockway, Program Director for Cultural Resources at the Trustees of Reservations, explained that they are seeking to place Appleton Farms on the State Register of Historic Places. They are submitting a Form A application which will be reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Once this is achieved, they plan to fill out the forms from the National Park Service and apply to place the site on the National Register of Historic Places. They are attending the Hamilton Historic District Commission meeting because they are requesting a letter of support for the nomination.

They have received support from the Ipswich Historical Commission. John Fiske from the Ipswich Historical Commission is attending the meeting of the Hamilton Historic District Commission. The Ipswich Historical Commission will take the lead in pursuing the nomination. Ms. Brockway also presented a letter from Barbara Erickson, President and CEO of the Trustees, indicating her support of the nomination.

Ms. Brockway described the property and reviewed its history following a series of questions from Mr. Hauck. She noted that there is the old farmhouse on the site. Previously there was also a nineteenth century estate house, however, it was demolished. There was a peach orchard on the site. There was significant research on dairy cows that occurred on the site, as well as animal breeding for beef and dairy production. There are horse trails on the site. The Trustees also have the papers of nine generations of the Appletons associated with the site.

Ed Howard asked about the benefits and detriments of placing the property on the National Register. Ms. Brockway explained that the benefits of the designation

include becoming eligible for grants that are only available to sites on the state or national register, including some grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. In addition, if a state or federal project, such as the widening of Bay Road, were to be proposed, the impacts to the site would need to be assessed and minimized.

Mr. Fiske reviewed the history of the site and its historical significance. He explained that the Appletons farmed the site until 1998 when it was transferred to the Trustees of Reservations. The Ipswich Historical Commission wishes to preserve the site. They believe that the State Register designation helps this. They are very enthusiastic supporters of the State and National Register nominations.

Mr. Howard made a motion to send a letter from the Hamilton Historic District Commission to the Massachusetts Historical Commission in support of the State Register nomination. Stefanie Serafini seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### 588 BAY ROAD

Mr. Catalano explained that Remko Breuker, the applicant's representative, has stated that the applicant plans to make modifications to the approved plans for the project. Mr. Breuker was unable to attend the meeting. However, he will submit drawings of the proposed changes so that Mr. Catalano can make a determination whether a public hearing will be required. This topic will be the subject of an upcoming meeting.

#### HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION SIGN

The Commission reviewed the plans for the southbound sign announcing the entrance to the historic district. Stefanie Serafini made a motion to replace the former southbound sign with a new sign, as represented by the design provided by Penny's Signs. Ms. Wheaton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Catalano stated that the owners of 700 Bay Road had made an inquiry about doing work on their gutters and trim. He will contact them regarding this project. He also noted that the restoration of the Patton Homestead has commenced with the new DPW Director working to obtain contractors for the roof replacement and dormer work. There was a discussion regarding the barn located at 585-589 Bay Road and what its status is.

Mr. Howard mentioned that there is a demolition delay bylaw workshop coming up in Acton. Mr. Catalano stated that he will look into finding the bylaw that was previously endorsed by the Historic District Commission. The members determined that it would be appropriate to place it on the warrant for the next Town Meeting through a citizen's petition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.