

Whately Historical Commission
April 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present: Donna Wiley (chair), Susan Baron, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle

- Meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.
- Minutes of March 20, 2023 meeting approved unanimously.
- Center School
 - Important Architectural Elements – Judy developed a list and annotated photographs of important elements of the exterior of the Center School, based on the National Register District write-up. This list does not include features on the rear (east side) of the building. Commission members agreed we should include this list and photos in the Restriction Agreement addendum for the sale of the building, noting it is drawn from the National Register form. Judy also updated the Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B to include this information.
 - Draft Preservation Restriction – Donna received input and examples of preservation restrictions from Michael Steinitz, Director of Preservation Planning, at the Massachusetts Historical Commission and used that information to create a draft. Commission members thanked Donna for her work on this.
 - Judy questioned the necessity of the second “whereas” as we are preserving the building rather than the landscape. Donna explained that the sequence of clauses follows exactly the sequence in the three example templates provided by MHC.
 - Members discussed separating the Milk Bottle into a separate “whereas.”
 - The paragraph regarding the easement for the Milk Bottle should state that the Milk Bottle must be allowed to remain on the property in its current location.
 - Because this document states the Historical Society shall ensure the Milk Bottle is maintained, this suggests the need for a document signed by the Historical Society accepting responsibility.
 - Commission members discussed options regarding the driveway and suggested adding language assuring accessible automobile access. To assure no damage to the Milk Bottle by moving the driveway, it was suggested a perimeter be defined around the Milk Bottle.
 - Paragraph (f) will be struck and “structure” be included in paragraph (b) regarding impairing visibility.
 - Paragraph (d) can be removed.

- Town Counsel and Massachusetts Historical Commission will need to review the document before it can be signed. The state requires 60-90 days to approve the draft to be included in the property sale agreement.
 - The Center School will be on the agenda for the April 11 Select Board meeting.
 - Judy will submit to Massachusetts Historical Commission the new Form B to include the elements discussed.
- Other Business
 - East School is asking for a Site Plan Review. Judy does not believe this is a concern for the Historical Commission.
 - Next meeting: April 17, 2023 at 5:00. We will discuss archeological indicators and North Street.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm