



TOWN OF WHATELY Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

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Minutes of the January 15, 2024 Zoom Meeting, 5 pm

Meeting participants: Donna Wiley, chair, Susan Baron, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle.

The revised minutes of December 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Center School The group discussed their impressions of the two proposals submitted for the rehabilitation of the school in advance of the Proposal Evaluation Committee's meeting on Wednesday night. The following points were among those raised:

Cyr/Gelormini condo proposal

- Firm appears to have better historic preservation credentials than Obear
- Previous projects are very high-end and expensive
- Discomfort with the proposed 90-day inspection period and potential to withdraw the proposal
- Little information about funding
- Appears to be hoping for more CPA funding than likely available
- Unclear how proposed maker space fits in to their workplan

Obear single family proposal

- Earlier projects got good marks for meeting the Secretary's Standards
- Unclear how the proposed timeline would be maintained.
- Large single-family unit not the best option for the site
- Concern about the very slow progress on the East School project and the potential of having two of Whately's key historic buildings sit idle

It was agreed that there is insufficient information in these proposals to assess them well and prioritize. Susan asked if it was possible to schedule a Q&A session with each of the developers. Donna, the HC representative to the evaluation group, agreed to ask for more information.

Yellow Barn CPA application Donna expressed a concern that the application isn't clear about the role of the Highway Department in the project and that the application might not include enough money for contingencies. She will speak with Keith Bardwell and clarify the Department's role.

Preservation Project Fund applications Susan raised the issue of applications to the Mass Historical Comm PPF grant program. It was agreed that there are no pending projects that would be appropriate.

North Street area form history section Allison volunteered to write up the history of the dairy farms. Donna offered to draft the sections on 18th century settlement patterns and farming, as well as the 19th century annexation of land from Deerfield. Susan and Alan will pitch in where needed. Donna reminded us that the history section of Mark Wamsley's master plan for Nasami would be a good reference source.

Master Plan draft survey We agreed to request that "Historical character" be included as one of the factors to be rated as affecting life in Whately (question 2).

The next meeting will be on February 19 at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Markland

