



## TOWN OF WHATELY

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Historical Commission  
4 Sandy Lane  
South Deerfield, MA 01373

### **Minutes of the October 22, 2018 Meeting 5 pm, Whately Town Hall**

Commission Members Present: Donna Wiley, Judy Markland, Susan Baron, Alan McArdle

Guests: Cindy Sanderson, Alan Sanderson Jr., Carol Olanyk, Kalani Willis, Brad Sanderson, Ronald Belden, Christine Belden, Gregg Sweetser

The minutes of the September 18 meeting were approved.

The **Wroblewski Solar Farm Installation** application was moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate our guests.

Judy Markland recused herself from voting as a Historical Commission member because the proposed project affects her view.

Plans have been submitted to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals for 5.75 acre plot with 4.37 acres covered by solar panels. However, a variance has been requested which would move the project 150 feet closer to North Street in order to meet requirements for wetlands conservation. The revised plans were not available for review at the time of our meeting.

The committee was concerned by the lack of information on the application concerning the historic resources present in the area. In particular, the lack of mention of the designation of the area as a Priority Heritage Landscape in the Whately Heritage Landscape Inventory Reconnaissance Report of June 2009 was of concern. We were also concerned at the omission of the designation of the North Street area as a Scenic Road and Scenic View in the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) of 2006. There was also no discussion in the application of the effects of the project on historic properties. We are also concerned about development of the land rather than leaving it agricultural as it is now,

Therefore, it was moved, seconded and approved that a letter be written to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals expressing our concerns about the lack of information in the application including those mentioned earlier in this paragraph and asking the ZBA to defer a decision on the project until the information is available. We are also requesting a site walk of the project area before a decision is made as well as a balloon test for visibility if that is deemed appropriate.

**Moved and Voted: 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain**

**MACRIS project:** The MACRIS project to identify the actual presence of or owners of properties with missing or potentially incomplete information was briefly discussed. Susan can accept the information requested from Commission members in whatever format is most convenient and will update the records accordingly to be reviewed at our next meeting, after which time we will inform the Massachusetts Historical Commission of changes to Whately entries in MACRIS identified through this process.

**Safe Restoration:** The Safe Restoration project to restore the paintings on the old Town Hall was discussed. Donna will accept the most plausible of the two responses we have received and will report on the total cost the project is likely to incur. The examination costs will be about \$600 of which Historical Commission will provide \$200 and the rest will be requested from CPA administrative funds.

**Moved and Voted 4 yes, 0 No.**

**Town Hall update:** Town Hall use will be subject to a town policy on use and rental. Final approval of that policy is on hold since the uses of Town Hall are currently subject to legal review.

**East School Property:** Judy reported that the Blue School property project needs a zoning bylaw amendment to support multifamily housing in that location. The Planning Board has discussed a bylaw that would also apply to other significant historic properties that have been open to the public. The Historical Commission may play a role in determining the eligibility of a building for use in such projects.

The next Historical Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13 at 5pm at the Town Hall, if needed. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, December 17 at 5 pm in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan McArdle