



Plympton Historical Commission

# Meeting Summary - 08/23/10

- Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.. Members present were Jon Wilhelmsen, Ed McCune, & Martin Mitchell.
- Minutes from 6/14/10 were approved as written. 3-0-0
- 18 Elm Street Demolition Review: JW advised that he had visited the property and had taken images which were shown at the meeting. The structure in question is an attached barn built in the mid to late 1800's. Its sills and floor are situated on or below grade - and significant insect damage is visible throughout the structure due to the wood's contact with the ground. There is evidence of active insect activity. Certain sections of the barn - particularly the southeast corner was not connected to the sills. A fair amount of the lower sheathing shows signs of damage as well. The plans for the structure were discussed with the contractor, Richard Burnet, who is also an Associate Member of the Commission, and it was his professional opinion that the building could not be saved for a couple of reasons: 1 - it is highly unlikely that the building would survive being lifted and moved to allow for a new foundation to be excavated and 2 - there was significant concern that the insect problem would remain in the building. The plan had been to salvage the structure, but given the deteriorated state and unsafe nature of the structure, they had resolved to remove the structure and rebuild a replica of the building in its place. Materials will be salvaged from the building for reuse as appropriate. It was discussed at the meeting this evening that the building has marginal architectural importance, but more importantly that the building is currently unsafe given the significant deterioration evident from the site visit. JW moved that he submit a letter to the Plympton Building Commissioner advising that the PHC would not object to an emergency demolition permit being issued on 18 Elm Street given the significant deterioration of the building's structure. The motion was seconded by EM and was approved 3-0-0.
- Waterstone Plaza LLC/Tractor Supply Company: Plans were received from the Plympton Planning Board on the proposed addition of a Tractor Supply store at the old Shaws Plaza. Most of the building will sit in Plympton. Given it's lack of proximity to any town historic district or significant historical resources, the Commission will not provide any comments on the proposal at this time. MM moved that JW send a letter to the planning board advising them that we will not be providing any comments at the present time. EM seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0-0.
- Open Meeting Law Changes: JW discussed the highlights of the open meeting law changes that went into effect 7/1/10 and provided EM & MM with a packet of information. They both completed their signed acknowledgment and these were left in the Town Clerk's mailbox.

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- Pre-survey Update: JW is waiting to hear back from the consultant regarding interest in conducting the pre-survey. He has not had a response to his inquiry and that may be because the consultant is on Holiday. Plan is to have a proposal ready for the Commission's review or at least in progress by our September meeting,
- CPC Update: JW advised that the CPC will begin accepting applications for FY2012. Applications will be due 10/15. The Commission has no plans to submit any new projects in this round.
- Signage and Marker Update. JW delivered the 2 Parsonage Road marker to Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds who promptly installed the marker. JW will f/u with Jim Mulcahy about getting the Village Green signs installed. Nell is still working on the larger sign.
- PHC Membership: MM and EM advised that they have not had any luck in recruiting new members. JW will reach out to one or two other folks to determine interest and will also reach out to the Plympton Historical Society. JW will reach out to Max West about retaining his Associate Membership through June 30, 2011. JW moved that we reappoint Richard Burnet as an Associate Member for 1 year with his term expiring on June 30 2010. Second by MM and approved 3-0-0
- Next meeting scheduled for Monday 9/20/10.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.