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Amesbury Historical Commission
Town Hall • Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Amesbury Historical Commission (AHC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Mar. 14, 2024

Location: Amesbury Council on Aging Senior Center, 68 Elm Street, Amesbury, MA

Commissioners Present: Joe Finn, Chair, Chris Akelian, Dick Joltes, Steve Klomps, Jay Williamson, Malcom Rutter (not yet sworn in)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM.

The minutes for the Jan. 4, 2024 meeting were submitted for review. Steve motioned to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Dick. Passed 5 to 0.

New Business:

- Two demolition applications were submitted by Minco Development Company. Alex Loth of Minco was in attendance and provided information on both applications.

Demolition application for 297 Elm Street (the former Woody Cammett property): This property was previously reviewed by AHC at which time it was determined that the house was not historically significant. Because of the 24 month lapse in time since issuance, the demolition permit has expired. This demolition application is a resubmission. Alex Loth stated that the existing structures will be replaced by a single (probably L shaped) multiple unit residential building. Consistent with AHC's previous determination, Dick motioned to designate the house at 297 Elm Street as not historically significant. The motion was seconded by Chris. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

Demolition application for 29 Clark's Road: Alex Loth provided background on the development of this 10 acre lot. Original plans were for a 56 unit town home development that would have filled the entire parcel. The present proposal is to develop only the front portion on Clark's Road and leave the rear area, separated by wetlands, as open space. The plan is to build small scale residential units on the Clark's Road frontage, in scale with the existing houses along the street, and build larger multi-story residential buildings behind these. Alex informed the AHC that they have also purchased 27 ½ Clark's Road, which is a newer house not subject to the Demolition By-Law. The project proposes the demolition of both existing houses at 29 and 27 ½.

Steve stated that the house at 29 Clark's Road is not listed in the Survey of Historic Resources in Amesbury. The house is a generic two and a half story Victorian structure

with five-bays that exhibits no significant architectural style or elements. It appears on the 1884 Atlas map of Salisbury (annexed to Amesbury in 1886) owned by a family named Sweeny. Steve motioned to designate the house at 29 Clark's Road as not historically significant. The motion was seconded by Jay. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

- Episcopal Church inquiry: Jay mentioned that he was approached on behalf of a member of the St. James Episcopal Church in Amesbury who said the building is facing maintenance issues. The congregation is considering applying to place the church on the National Register of Historic Places as a potential way to access funds for repairs. Because there was no one from the church in attendance, there was no further discussion.
- Chris asked about the status of the Community Preservation Act recently approved by Amesbury. A brief discussion ensued.

Old Business:

- Jay had emailed to all AHC members an updated draft of a proposed letter to Lisa Meade, attorney representing the developers of the former Methodist Church at 142 Main Street. The letter addresses noncompliance by the developers of an agreement with the AHC regarding the design of the replacement doors on the side of the church facing Nayson's Court. All AHC members present agreed with the wording of the updated letter. Joe requested Jay to email the letter to Ms. Meade on behalf of the AHC and cc all commission members. Chris made a motion to approve the letter and authorize Jay to send it on behalf of the AHC. The motion was seconded by Dick. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Steve Klomps