

Town of Sheffield Historical Commission Meeting

November 5, 2013

Present: Dennis Sears, Chair; Patricia Elsbach, Michael King Catherine Miller, Kathy Orlando, Jeffrey Waingrow

Absent: Gay Tucker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

The minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2013 were approved as presented.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the 10/07/13 draft of the Demolition Delay By-Law. (6-0-0)

Jeff Waingrow reported on a meeting with Tom Carmody, Building Inspector regarding demolition. Mr. Carmody is guided by 7809CMR, the Massachusetts Building Code. Section 1: 120.0 Unsafe Structures.

In order for the Building Inspector to issue a permit for a structure to be demolished, three (3) requirements must be met: (1) structure is abandoned; (2) structure is open to the weather; (3) structure is a public safety hazard.

All three conditions must be met; the owner must be provided with at least thirty (30) days to remedy the problem.

If the structure is not falling down, demolition may be forestalled if all doors and windows or other means of access are boarded up. If collapse is imminent, the structure can be fenced so there is no access.

Mr. Carmody indicated that he as a matter of practice would advise the Selectboard in the event an individual or group applied for a demolition permit.

The Chair will provide the Building Inspector with a copy of the draft dated 10/07/13. In addition it was agreed that the wording in "red" following Section 5 should be deleted as it is now irrelevant.

The Chair reported that Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator has referred the decision on legal counsel relative to the proposed by-law to the Selectboard. The group voted (2-1-0) on November 4 to refer the document to legal counsel and limit the time of engagement to 2.5 hours.

Catherine Miller asked that the Commission consider a \$200 contribution to help pay the bill to Ryan Larkin for lettering the two (2) signs regarding Sheffield's historic nature, located, one at each end of Town. The signs were refurbished. On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to appropriate \$200 for this project. (6-0-0) The Town will be asked to pay the balance which is \$205.

Michael King requested that the Commission direct its attention to what its intentions might be for 2014. It was the consensus that each member locate all the material relative to the inventorying of properties, and that further at least one property that is not on the inventory list be identified. At the next meeting Commission members will begin the Form B (see Massachusetts Historical Commission – Forms- Form B) process for the structure each Commissioner has identified.

Next meeting : Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 pm. Catherine B. Miller, Clerk

