

Minutes from May 28, 2020 Virtual Meeting of the
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission

In attendance: Bob Pasqualina, Richard Chernoff, Lou Levine, Pricilla Reuger Sandra Preston, Fred Smith, Liam O'Brian, Pat Levine

Pat was asked and agreed to take minutes.

1. Bob moved and Lou seconded that the minutes from the May 12, 2020 meeting be approved. The vote to approve was unanimous.
2. Lou moved and Bob seconded that the Commission approve a Certificate of Hardship for 21 Clayton Road. After discussion, the vote to approve was unanimous.

Fred Smith left the call at 5:12pm.

3. Lou moved and Bob seconded that a Certificate of Appropriateness be approved for work to be done at 1114 Ashley Falls Road; work to include new building and trim colors, vertical shiplap siding on the garage, widow replacement. After discussion, the vote to approve was unanimous.
4. Lou moved and Bob seconded that a Certificate of Appropriateness be approved for a change in paint color to 1180 Ashley Falls Road. After discussion regarding the two letters received after the public notices went out, on in favor, one against, the color, the vote to approve was unanimous.
5. Lou moved and Bob seconded that a Certificate of Appropriateness be approved for the sign to be mounted on the building at 1180 Ashley Falls Road. After discussion, the vote to approve was unanimous.
6. Discussion regarding the wording used on the application. The wording is out of date. Lou will prepare a draft of a new application for the Commission's review.
7. Richard volunteered to draft a letter to be sent to residents and relators regarding the role of the AFHDC. The letter will be reviewed by the Commission at a subsequent meeting.
8. Bob moved and Sandra seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The vote to approve was unanimous. The meeting ended at 5:40pm.

Minutes from June 18., 2020 Conference Call Meeting of the
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission

In attendance: Sandra Preston, Priscilla Rueger, Bob Pasqualina, Richard Chernoff, Lou Levine – committee members. Lori Hummel, Howard Kruse, Pat Levine, and Julie Barrows, members of the public.

Pat agreed to take minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

Bob moved and Sandra seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2020 meeting as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously.

1. Matters regarding the sign application for 1180 Ashley Falls Rd.

It was noted that the sign was hung in a place other than where it was approved to be hung. After discussion, the shop owner, Julie Barrows, agreed to move the sign to where it was approved.

Priscilla left the meeting at 5:24 pm.

2. Matters regarding 1299 Rannapo Road.

It was moved by Lou and seconded by Bob that a public hearing be held regarding the proposed changes to 1299 Rannapo Rd. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was set for July 9, 2020. The Commission agreed to hold a meeting immediately following the public hearing.

3. Matters regarding the proposed historic district guidelines.

Lou had begun to draft a set of design guidelines for the consideration of the Commission. They were drawn from guidelines developed by many other MA historic districts. Lou noted that the development of guidelines was recommended by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and widely considered a “best practice” in the historic preservation community. He moved to adopt the draft guidelines; the motion did not have a second. After lengthy discussion, and expression of the opinion that the language of the bylaw was sufficient and the development of guidelines would be constricting, it was decided that no action be taken.

Sandra left the meeting at 6:10pm.

Lou moved and Bob seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.