

Lenox Historical Commission meeting, Sept. 25, 2019

Present:

Olga Weiss, Jan Chague, Cindy Weiss, Lucy Kennedy (by phone)

Guest: Pam Kueber, planning board

- 1) The minutes of Sept. 13, 2019 were accepted.
- 2) Demolition Delay: The HC agreed to make the effective date March 1, 2020. We will delete #2 on page 2 of the proposed ordinance, which now requires builders/contractors to do a historical survey of their building. A cover letter will be sent to the town attorney with the proposed ordinance pointing out the 30-days that the building code requires the building commissioner to act on a demolition permit and asking if we need to do anything in the ordinance to deal with this. We discussed publicity for the town meeting: Could the HC get a notice in an upcoming tax bill? Send a postcard to people in town? Pam warns that any publicity may need to be strictly informational, but we should check with the town manager. Lucy suggests personal contacts to get people to come to the meeting and support the ordinance.
- 3) Historic Preservation chapter for the town master plan: Pam Kueber goes over the latest draft. What questions does the HC want on its "index cards" in the plan for citizen input? There will probably be three public hearings. Pam will make updates to the Historic Preservation draft chapter reflecting our concerns.
- 4) CPC funding application: Olga suggests that the maintenance proposal may not be possible because the CDC does not provide grants for maintenance. Can it be rephrased as an "essential repair?" We discuss the Oliver Root House application as a possibility.
- 5) Plan of action on demolition delay ordinance: Cindy and Jan can attend the Oct. 2 Board of Selectmen's meeting and present the final ordinance proposal.
- 6) Olga suggests a plan to prevent demolition of 17 West St.: Having the town purchase 17 West St. with the \$600,000 available in public housing funds and offering Chabad the opportunity to pursue another property in town. At a 9/23/19 meeting with two of the selectmen, the selectmen indicated they would support the ZBA decision on 17 West and would not write a letter of support. Olga as a private citizen (not the HC) is pursuing other possible inroads to people who may be able to get a meeting with Chabad.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.