

## MINUTES

**Barnstable Historical Commission  
Town Hall  
367 Main Street, Hyannis  
Town Hall Hearing Room  
December 15, 2015**

Laurie Young, Chair	Present
Marilyn Fifield, Clerk	Present
Nancy Clark	Present
Nancy Shoemaker	Present
George Jessop	Absent
Ted Wurzburg	Present
Paul Arnold, Alternate	Absent
Jo Anne Miller Buntich	Director, GMD
Marylou Fair	Admin Assistant, GMD

Laurie Young called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

*Acting under the provisions of the Code of the Town of Barnstable, ss 112-1 through 112-7, the Historical Commission held a Public Hearing on the following applications previously determined significant and referred to Public Hearing:*

**Maher, Shirley & Levasseur, Suzanne, Trustees, Bellyachers Trust, 630 Route 149, Marstons Mills, Map 101, Parcel 009**

Built 1811, Inventoried, Not in a National Register Historic District

Demolish single-family dwelling

Represented by Patricia Sciuto, Contractor

Nancy Clark commented that the pictures submitted are not of high quality, and Laurie Young provided current pictures that she had taken on her visit to the site. Nancy Clark noted that she is very familiar with the property and asked how long the contractor has been involved. Ms. Sciuto replied that they were contacted approximately 3 months ago by the homeowner.

Laurie Young opened the discussion for Public Comment:

Direct abutters Catherine & Gerald Cooperman were present and voiced concern if the demolition does go forward, asking what process and precautions would be in place.

Chair Young replied that she would have to refer the abutters to either the Building Inspector or the Board of Health. Mr. Cooperman was disappointed by the absence of the homeowners.

Ann Coombs, another direct abutter, also had concerns on how the process works. She said she would love to see the house restored, but she understood it is in rough shape and with wetland concerns as well.

Hearing no further public comment, Nancy Shoemaker moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Ted Wurzburg. So Voted Unanimously

Nancy Clark reported that she has spoken with Marstons Mills historian Bob Frazee and they both agree this is a shame. She recalled that the interior walls had been totally stripped and taken back to the outside sheathing and not very carefully done, with the whole exterior wall open and no support of the walls to the second floor. When the Inventory Form B was done, it was not safe to go to the second floor. If Marstons Mills was to ever have a historic district, this corner with the three Hinckley Houses would be a cornerstone, so it is a loss to the Town and the Village. But, considering the way it has been let go, she felt there is no choice. Ted Wurzburg agreed and felt this is demolition by neglect. Laurie Young noted that this property has been owned by the current homeowner for a very long time, and they did have the opportunity to do something, and she agreed this is a perfect example of demolition by neglect. She add that if she thought it would help to send a message, she would vote for an 18-month demolition delay, but she did not feel that would benefit the Town.

Ted Wurzburg agreed that leaving it for another 18 months would create more of a hazard to the neighborhood.

**Motion duly made by Ted Wurzburg, seconded by Nancy Shoemaker, that the Barnstable Historical Commission finds after review and consideration of public testimony, application, and record file for demolition proposed at 630 Route 149, Marstons Mills, that the parts of the Significant Building to be demolished are Preferably Preserved, Significant portions of the building. The Barnstable Historical Commission further finds that the parts of the Significant Building to be retained are Preferably Preserved and shall not be demolished.**

**AYE: None**

**NAY: So Voted Unanimously**

**Motion duly made by Ted Wurzburg, seconded by Nancy Sheomaker, that, in accordance with Section 112-3 F, the Barnstable Historical Commission determines that the proposed partial demolition of the building located at 630 Route 149, Marstons Mills, is not detrimental to the historical, cultural or architectural heritage or resources of the Town.**

**AYE: So Voted Unanimously**

**Matters not reasonably anticipated by Chair**

Mr. Mark Buckley was present and wished to be recognized for Public Comment regarding Lowell Park in Cotuit. He said he'd read on the website the Commission goal to "preserve and protect historic buildings and settings". The public has donated more than \$1 million to purchase the Park, he said, and the plan was to keep the trees surrounding the park. He said the Town intends to purchase 3 acres abutting Lowell Park, and the area around the park is protected by a Conservation Restriction, but these

3 acres are not. Further, he said the Barnstable Land Trust has been raising money to preserve the land and the trees, but at the same time the Athletic Association has been raising money to build new bullpens. He felt the best use for these 3 acres is to grandfather them, with the trees protected along with the use of the walking trails. Mr. Buckley requested the support of this Commission in the form of a letter to the Town Manager. As this topic was not listed on the Agenda, nor the 48-hour Public Notice, Nancy Shoemaker suggested that Mr. Buckley enlist the help of other residents of Cotuit to support the preservation of these 3 acres and request that this item be placed on the next Agenda. Ted Wurzburg also inquired if it is within the Commission's capacity to comment on historic settings, and Chair Young agreed to research the options available to the Commission.

### **Updates**

Marilyn Fifield reported that potential moving of the Luke's Love Playground near the Old Selectman's Building was discussed at a recent Community Preservation Committee meeting, and she reminded CPC of the clay and drainage issues that affect the building.

Nancy Shoemaker reported that she attended the first meeting of the newly formed Hyannis Historical Society and noted that they plan to meet again in January. She said the Society will be headed by Jack MacDonald as Chair and Allen White as Treasurer, and she added that right now they will be focusing on Pleasant & School Streets and the deteriorated buildings in this area. She felt it was very promising, with many businessmen involved.

Laurie Young noted that the Purchase & Sales for the Barbara Crosby house must have fallen through because there has been an increase in advertising, and interest has increased. She also stated that the new house constructed at 271 Wianno Avenue has been completed, and although a very nice house, the history of the neighborhood is diminished as far as its setting, with the character of the street disappearing.

**With no further business before this Commission, a motion was duly made by Nancy Clark, seconded by Nancy Shoemaker, to adjourn the meeting at 4:57pm. So Voted Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marylou Fair, Recording Secretary  
and Commission Clerk Marilyn Fifield