

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Historic Review Committee
Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in person

In attendance: E. Disbrow, D. Rich (seated alternate), L. Hogarty, Joseph Hutchins, Laura Lefko

Absent: D. Meixell, B. Dodson

Guest: Tom Lentz

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00. New alternate member Laura Lefko was welcomed.
2. Hutchins moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2023 meeting. Rich seconded the approval of the amended motion. Motion passed.
3. Discussion ensued about using the enabling state statute Sec. 12-127a, "Abatement of taxes on structures of historical or architectural merit" as the basis for a new town ordinance. Disbrow moved to recommend that the BOS enact an ordinance to authorize an abatement of real property taxes on threatened historic structures. The idea is that an abatement could reduce the tax burden seen by some homeowners as a reason/need to demolish a structure. Hutchins seconded. Motion passed.
4. Applications/relevant activity expected next month:
 - Kenilworth and Route 81, where one structure has already been razed.
 - 17 Chestnut Hill, where a 1950s addition is to be torn down for a new addition more in keeping with the style of the historic house
 - 147 Roast Meat Hill where a renovation to add a second story may trigger our review.
5. Outreach projects:
 - A display of photos of old schoolhouses is being planned for the Town Hall Meeting Room.
 - The Library Display case is reserved for our use in August. We may have a display on gravestones at the Town Hall in the display case that could then move to the Library.
 - Disbrow reported that the street files of historic houses now have a blue or green colored notice in the file notifying realtors and prospective buyers of the historical significance and the relevant requirements for alterations.
6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.

Next meeting expected to be May 5.

Respectfully submitted by Lucinda Hogarty on 4/21/2023.