

Town of Sutton
Historic Commission Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2023

Meeting Started at 7:10 p.m. via Hybrid

Members Present:

Keith Downer – Chairman

Mark Brown – Clerk

Paul Dunn – Member

Rochelle Forsythe – Member

Donna Rossio – Member (Remote)

Christopher Leary – Member

Members Absent: None.

Review and Approve Minutes:

February 23, 2023 minutes were approved by vote. Vote carried a yes, by all voting members present, C. Leary abstained as was not present at the February meeting.

Public Forum: None.

Public Hearing: None.

Board Business:

K. Downer, Inventory Continuation Sheets from D. Rossio:

- 33 Buttonwood Ave. - Tabled to next meeting as not all Members received.
- 100 Word./Providence Turnpike (Rt 146, the old Drive-In)
 - P. Dunn asks for clarification of sites status: D. Rossio responds that it was qualified for submission, but, not actually submitted.
 - D. Rossio, the property is Zoned for Business, however abuts the Free-Grace Marble National Historic District and Sutton's Rural Residential Zone 1 and is also within the Blackstone Valley Overlay District. As such the demolition of this property and its subsequent use may require Historic Commission review in the future. The significant features are the Drive-In entrance's stone pillars and archway (Art Deco) as well as enclosing stone walls.
 - No other comments.

K. Downer, 41 Burbank Rd - Application for stone wall alteration request due to safety concerns (entrance to driveway between the two stone walls is currently too narrow to allow emergency vehicle (fire engines ...) access to dwelling. Resident intends to leave the walls in their current rustic state and simply curve and widen the existing entrance by moving the existing stones. Public meeting scheduled for April 24. C. Leary commends the resident for going through the approval process rather than just making the changes. Board members agreed with the likely safety issues. D. Rossio agrees that the intended alterations meet standards for stone wall preservation. D. Rossio also reminds the Board that public safety is not one of the Historic Commissions concerns.

Old Business:

K. Downer, Center Overlay district update. Shortly after our February meeting, He attended the Planning Board meeting to present/review his request and map as it exists as well as the 2 additional properties seeking inclusion. Since that meeting 3 additional properties have come forward also wishing inclusion with 1 more still considering. The Planning Board agreed to sponsor an article in the October Town Meeting with regard to this request. The decision on October rather than May is to allow for preparation/communication and as the October

Town Meeting is better suited for Zoning issues such as this. D. Rossio has rescinded her suggestion to cosponsor the extension made in the February Historic Commission meeting and requests time in the next meeting to present her reasons against this extension. K. Downer responds that an agenda will be added for the next Historic Commission meeting and requests that the original Center Overlay plan be reviewed prior in preparation. No other comments from the Board.

K. Downer, Manchaug Bridge update. He did a walk through of the area and did some research with the State. This is still an open project with the State, but, no updates or plans are currently present. This is related to the Flood Plain review also going on in that location.

New Business:

K. Downer, Lackey Dam Warehouse Project(3/4 in Douglas, 1/4 in Sutton):

- The submitted ENF states that there are 2 Native American sites on the grounds.
 - 19-WR-304, a flake site.
 - 19-WR-311, a camp/habitation site with flake.
 - Mass. Historic has been contacted, but, not response as yet.

K. Downer questions why the Commission does not know of these sites. D. Rossio responds that the State keeps archeological sites secret in order to safeguard and preserve them from private individuals seeking to do their own "digs"/looting. K. Downer concerned that we are requested to be involved with the walk-thru of the site and to comment, but, we are not provided with the significant details.

Announcements / Correspondence:

K. Downer will resubmit the updated Continuation Sheets from D. Rossio to Mass. Historic.

K. Downer submitted the Annual Report update to the Town (discussed in previous meeting).

K. Downer email from MHC listing upcoming events.

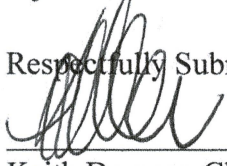
K. Downer a potential Board member has suggested that we do an educational video on Sutton's history and calling out properties/locations of historical interest. This individual was not able to attend this meeting, but, we should expect a proposal at some future date.

P. Dunn mentions an article on Facebook about Massachusetts Towns that highlighted Sutton (with photos). K. Downer also heard of this article.

D. Rossio calls out that any projects along the Rt. 146 corridor could have Native American impacts and should raise a Red Flag. K. Downer states that he has raised concerns with the State on the projects and Mass. Historical Commission found no concerns.

* A motion to adjourn was made by C. Leary and seconded by D. Rossio at 7:58p.m., it was carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:



05/30/23

Keith Downer, Chair