

**Town of Stockbridge Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
January 30, 2020**

The Town of Stockbridge Historical Commission (Commission) held a meeting at the Town Offices on Thursday, January 30, 2020, beginning at 10:20 AM. Present were Chairman Linda Jackson, Maria Carr, and Clerk Peter Williams, constituting all members of the Commission. Ms. Jackson presided over the meeting. The meeting's agenda, date, time and place were duly posted at the Town Offices at least two business days in advance of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting, as stated in the public notice, was for the SHC to review the FY21 applications to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funds assertedly relating to Town historic resources. (Mr. Williams recused himself from voting on the Norman Rockwell Museum application.) Other agenda items were: review of draft November 7, 2019 meeting minutes; review of plans/drafts for grant application to MHC, and any new business.

The Commission first reviewed and approved the draft minutes of its meeting of November 7, 2019 that Mr. Williams had circulated prior to today's meeting.

The Commission next reviewed the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as amended most recently on August 11, 2016, and the Commission reviewed the CPA's relevant procedures as summarized in the Community Preservation Coalition ("CP Coalition") flow chart entitled "Qualifying Historic Projects for CPA Funding" (the "Flow Chart," attached hereto). The Commission also reviewed a statutory language excerpt entitled "Excerpts from CPA re Preservation of Historic Resources" (attached hereto) that was prepared by Mr. Williams and which quotes relevant excerpts from the CPA.

Preliminarily, Ms. Jackson reviewed status reports received from some of the organizations that received CPC grants in recent years. The Berkshire Theater Group and the Norman Rockwell Museum both filed reports this month reporting on completion of work from prior CPC grants.

The Commission next turned to the current grant requests designated as for historic preservation.

Chesterwood: This application seeks funding for the restoration of the three Residence chimneys. Beginning with step 1 under the CP Coalition Flow Chart, the Commission noted that the Chesterwood application seeks funds with regard to a building. Regarding step 2, the Commission has previously noted that Chesterwood is individually listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places. The Commission next turned to whether the proposed work constitutes "rehabilitation" and/or "restoration" as defined (or, in the latter case, not defined) in the CPA. The Commission found that the proposed work meets the requisite definitions under the CPA.

Norman Rockwell Museum: Preservation and Digitization of Rockwell's Business Correspondence: (Mr. Williams recused from this application's consideration.) The Commission found first that the application involves funds a project relating to documents. Second, the Commission made a determination that the Rockwell Business Correspondence is significant to the history and culture of the Town, as the Business Correspondence is central to one of Stockbridge's foremost mid-twentieth century historic figures. Third, the proposed work, preservation and digitization of Norman Rockwell's Business Correspondence, constitutes preservation of that significant historic asset.

Town of Stockbridge (Civil War Monument): This project seeks funds for the restoration of the Civil War Monument centrally located on Main Street in the National Register Historic District, to which it is a contributing artifact (steps 1 and 2). The Commission next considered step 3. The Commission concluded that the proposed work generally constitutes preservation, rehabilitation and/or restoration of the artifact.

Stockbridge-Munsee Community Archaeology Project: This project seeks to continue an archaeological investigation with respect to the historic location of a 1783 Ox Roast as well as the historic homesite of Mohican "King" Solomon. The location is on Town-owned land near the Ice Glen, between the Housatonic River and the Mary Flynn Trail. Regarding step 1, the proposed work involves artifacts. Turning to step 2, the Commission found that those resources are significant to the history, archeology and culture of Stockbridge because the Town's Native American history is central to Stockbridge, founded as it was as a mission to its Native residents. Regarding step 3, the Commission found that the proposed work would involve preservation of those historic resources.

The Trustees of the Reservation: The proposed work is for rehabilitation of the north porch of the historic Naumkeag estate. Naumkeag is on the State Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Thus, the project involves a building (step1) that is listed on the State Register (step 2). Further, the work involves rehabilitation of the building (step 3).

Other business

The Commission next turned to a review of the current draft Survey and Planning Grant Application to the MHC. The Commissioners made various edits on the current draft and determined that it should be circulated to Mr. Farmer and Mr. Webber.

These minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission prior to the close of the meeting.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:48 AM.

Dated: Stockbridge, Massachusetts
January 31, 2019

Peter C. Williams

Peter C. Williams

Clerk

Attachments:

**Excerpts from CPA re
Preservation of Historic Resources (emphasis added)**

Section 5(b)(1): The community preservation committee shall study the needs, possibilities and resources of the city or town regarding community preservation, including the consideration of regional projects for community preservation. **The committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including** the conservation commission, **the historical commission**, the planning board, the board of park commissioners and the housing authority, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, **in conducting such studies**.

Section 5(b)(2): “The community preservation committee shall make recommendations to the legislative body [the Town Meeting] ... for the acquisition, **preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources**”

Section 2 (Definitions):

“**Historic resources**”, a building, structure, vessel real property, document or artifact that *is listed on the state register of historic places or has been determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of a city or town.*

“**Preservation**”, protection of personal or real property from injury, harm or destruction.

“**Rehabilitation**”, capital improvements, or the making of extraordinary repairs, to historic resources, open spaces, lands for recreational use and community housing for the purpose of making such historic resources, open spaces, lands for recreational use and community housing functional for their intended uses, including, but not limited to, improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal, state or local building or access codes; provided, that with respect to historic resources, “rehabilitation” shall comply with the Standards for Rehabilitation stated in the United

States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
codified in 36 C.F.R. Part 68....

[**“Restoration”** is not defined in the CPA.]

Prepared by PCW, 2/4/15

Qualifying Historic Projects for CPA Funding

