

**Town of Stockbridge Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
February 9, 2021**

The Town of Stockbridge Historical Commission (Commission) held a meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9, 2020, beginning at 11:02 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 relating to Town historic resources. (Mr. Williams recused himself from any participation with respect to the Norman Rockwell Museum application.)

The Commission first 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.

Linda pointed out that we have 12 historic project applications to consider. The goal today is to determine whether each project qualifies under the CPA. The Commission next turned to the current CPA grant requests designated as for historic preservation.

Berkshire Theater Group (Rehabilitation of Mellen Barn aka Council Grove Barn): The Commission began its review of this application pursuant to the three steps in the attached CPC Flow Chart and concluded that the first step is satisfied, i.e., the application involves a "building", namely the Mellen Barn on the BTG campus. Regarding step 2 on the Chart, the Commission noted that the Mellen Barn is not listed on the State Register of Historic Places, and so the Commission then considered whether the Barn is significant to the history, archeology, architecture or culture of Stockbridge. In that regard, the Commission noted that Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Area Form for Yale Hill (STO.A) discusses the Barn in four places on the Form and concludes that the Barn is a contributing structure to a potential historic district in and around Yale Hill. The SHC's consultant, Greg Farmer, has advised the SHC that the East Street area of which the Barn is a part is an important potential historic district that warrants registration with the MHC when circumstances permit. Accordingly, the Commission found that the Barn is significant to the history, architecture and culture of Stockbridge. Turning to the third step, whether the proposed project would preserve, rehabilitate, or restore the historic resource, the Commission found that the proposed

historic restoration work (part of a larger project – the yellow-highlighted items in the Berkshire Building & Remodeling budget estimate attachment to the application) involves capital improvements or extraordinary repairs to the Barn, which are to be accomplished according to the Secretary's Standards, and so the proposed work constitutes rehabilitation under the CPA.

Friends of Gould Meadows: This application seeks, with respect to historic preservation, funding for the restoration of the Milk Shed's south stone foundation and replacement of missing floor planks in the Shed (\$3,000). The application also seeks funds to replace the missing dedication sign at the Mary Flynn oak tree (\$200). Beginning with the Milk Shed, and step 1 under the CP Coalition Flow Chart, the Commission noted that the application seeks funds with regard to a building. Regarding step 2, the Commission found in 2017 that the Shed is significant to the history, architecture and culture of the Town as it is a rare surviving vernacular agricultural building on an important parcel of Town land. 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.

Regarding the proposed replacement of the missing dedication sign at the Mary Flynn oak tree, which we understand was installed when the tree was planted and dedicated in 1981, the SHC found that, because the sign was installed less than 50 years ago, it does not qualify as a historic resource under the CPA.

Norman Rockwell Museum: Historic Structures Report for Linwood and Adjacent Outbuildings: (Mr. Williams recused from this application's consideration.) The Commission found first that the application involves funds for a project relating to several buildings. Second, in 2018 the Commission made a determination that Linwood (c. 1859) and its related structures (STO.345) are significant to the history of the Town. The final question is whether the proposed project (preparation of an historic structure report) constitutes “preservation, rehabilitation [or] restoration of historic resources” within the meaning of the CPA. Regarding this question, the Commission found that Linwood and its surrounding structures, which are historically important structures, have not been the subject of much historic research. An historic structures report is the gold standard of architectural research. The SHC has looked into the question whether certain historic studies qualify for historic funding under the CPA, and the SHC has concluded that an historic structures report will help to preserve the property in question, and so qualifies under the CPA. An historic structures report will help the Rockwell Museum in the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of Linwood.

Riverbrook: This project involves installation of an elevator, handicapped bathroom and sprinkler system in the Riverbrook building on Ice Glen Road. Regarding step 1, the project involves a building. Turning to step 2, the Commission found that the building is significant to the history, architecture and culture of Stockbridge in that it is a

contributing building to the Ice Glen Road potential historic district (STO.L) listed in the MHC Area Form for that district (the building is historically known as Konkapot Cottage or Crowninshield Cottage (STO.516)). Regarding step 3, the CPA provides that it covers:

...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....

Accordingly, so long as the proposed work is done in compliance with the Secretary's Standards, the Commission found that the project meets step 3 under the CPA.

Stockbridge-Munsee Community: This project seeks to identify, preserve and conduct further research regarding the Mohican Burial Ground located in and/or around the Field Arboretum site, owned by the Laurel Hill Association and the Town of Stockbridge. Regarding step 1, the proposed work involves real property, which is included in the CPA's definition of potential historic resources. Turning to step 2, the Commission found that the real property involved is 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, and the site here is a Mohican burying ground, and also the site of the Town's second meeting house. Regarding step 3, the Commission found that the proposed work is integral to preservation of those historic resources.

Stockbridge Library, Museum and Archives (SLMA): This project seeks funds to replace the HVAC system for the Museum & Archives, located in the basement of the SLMA. As for step 1, the work involves a building, and regarding step 2, the Commission previously has found that the SLMA building is significant to the history and culture of Stockbridge, as it is a contributing structure to the Main Street National Register Historic District. Moreover, the records and artifacts located in the Museum and Archives are critical historic resources to the Town. Regarding step 3, the new proposed HVAC system (replacing an old and out-of-date one) will help to preserve those historic assets.

Town of Stockbridge (Soldiers' Monument): This project seeks funds for the restoration of the Soldiers' Monument located on Main Street. At its meeting in January 2019 the Commission found that the Monument is located in the National Register Historic District, to which it is a contributing artifact (steps 1 and 2). Regarding step 3, the Commission concluded in 2019 and reiterated again today that the proposed work generally constitutes preservation, rehabilitation and/or restoration of the artifact.

Town of Stockbridge Fountain Committee (Cat and Dog Fountain): This project seeks funds related the restoration of The Cat and Dog Fountain 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 was unable to determine whether the proposed work constitutes preservation, rehabilitation and/or restoration of the artifact, as no details were provided.

Town of Stockbridge Fountain Committee (Watering Trough): This project seeks funds for the renovation of the plantings and landscaping adjacent to the Watering Trough 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, whether the proposed work generally constitutes preservation, rehabilitation and/or restoration of the artifact, and the Commission answered this question in the negative. Historically, no plantings surrounded the trough.

Town of Stockbridge Housing Authority (Refurbishment of Heaton Hall Sign): This project seeks funds for the restoration of the historic arched metal Heaton Hall sign at the entrance of the original Heaton Hall hotel (now Heaton Court, an affordable elderly housing project). The large historic sign is an artifact (step 1). Regarding step 2, the Commission found that the sign is significant to the history, architecture and culture of Stockbridge in that it is the last major surviving relic of Heaton Hall, a grand 85-room hotel built on the hill immediately above downtown Stockbridge and opened in 1904. Heaton Hall was owned by Allen T. Treadway, a prominent Stockbridge citizen and a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and later the president of the Massachusetts Senate from 1909 to 1911. In 1913, he was elected to Congress, where he represented the state's 1st congressional district until his retirement in 1945. Heaton Hall is emblematic of Stockbridge's history as a popular visiting site throughout much of the 20th century. Regarding step 3, the proposal is to restore the sign to its original historic site.

The Trustees (Sculpture Conservation): The proposed work is for the conservation of the Frederick MacMonnies bronze sculpture *Young Faun with Heron*, which is located in the Fletcher Steele-designed Afternoon Garden of the historic Naumkeag estate. Naumkeag is on the State Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. The project involves an artifact (step 1) that is integral to the State Register listing (step 2). Indeed, the National Historic Landmark Nomination for Naumkeag cites the Steele-designed gardens as important aspects of the historic significance of Naumkeag. Lastly, the proposed work, to be accomplished by the preeminent Williamstown Art Conservation Center, involves preservation and rehabilitation of the sculpture (step 3).

Kathryn Whitney (Replacement of Cedar Shake Roof on Rear of 17 Willard Hill): This project seeks funding for the replacement of the failing cedar shake roof on the Southwest/Rear of the building. Step 1 is satisfied, as a building is involved. Regarding step 2, the building at 17 Willard Hill Road is an important contributor to the Old Curtisville National (and State) Register District. Turning to step 3, the proposed work constitutes rehabilitation of the affected roof portion of the building.

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

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 12:28 PM.

Dated: Stockbridge, Massachusetts
February 9, 2021

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

