

**TOWN OF SHREWSBURY**  
**Historical Commission Meeting**  
**Richard R. Carney Municipal Office Building**  
**100 Maple Ave. Shrewsbury, MA**  
Remote Meeting

**Thursday, February 10, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mr. Paul Schwab, Chair, Ms. Melissa McKenna, Vice-Chair, Ms. Gail Aslanian, Secretary, Mr. David Chiampa, Commissioner, Ms. Erin Howard, Commissioner, Mr. Kevin Samara, Commissioner , Mr. Gerald Sullivan, Guest

Chairman Schwab read the statement of procedures concerning suspension of the Open Meeting Law and in person gathering. Roll call attendance was taken and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Preliminaries:**

1. **Approve Minutes of January 6, 2022.** A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes and were unanimously approved into record.

**Old Business:**

1. **Inventory Update:** Gerry Sullivan and Paul Schwab reported on the methods used to find information for the narrative section of the MAKRIS Form B. According to the Mass Historical Commission the narratives need not be long but should include any pertinent information such as inhabitants, professions, uses, happenings etc. Paul was able to find histories for a number of properties in short time. Mr. Sullivan and his firm will continue to work on narratives as well as the Commission working in group to finish as many as possible. The goal is to get the inventory finished and posted on MAKRIS. Gerry will share the spreadsheet in Google Docs so we can input information as we find it.

2. **Homeowners Survey:** Melissa has drafted a sample survey to send to homeowners of inventoried homes. After a discussion of form and content she is going to simplify the form and clarify some of the questions to better reflect our purpose which is to introduce ourselves to the owners, gather historical information and offer our assistance should they need or want it. The data should hopefully build capacity with property owners to be engaged in the preservation process.

**New Business:**

1. **Board of Selectman Meeting:** Selectman John Samia reached out to chairman Schwab regarding next steps after the BOS Inventory presentation. It was a positive conversation in which Paul was able to convey the Commission's concerns regarding historic preservation and addressed three suggestions for the BOS to consider. 1) to explore added preservation language to the Town Center ByLaw 2) the need to clarify the role of HCOMM in town government and assist us in creating working relationships with the Planning Dept, BOS, Parks and Rec, Building Dept, Conservation, etc. 3) recommend that HCOMM collaborate with the BOS on exploring a preservation bylaw or a preservation plan that works towards bylaw(s).

2. **Annual Report:** Paul asked to review the annual report and it was accepted for submission.

3. **Beal School Reuse:** Discussion as to how to move forward regarding the reuse and development of the old Beal School property in the Town Center. Not having been included in previous discussions pertaining to the school's historic value or reuse potential the HCOMM feels it is necessary to make comment. Paul will draft a letter to the Planning Board, Civico/Greenly, the BOS and various other entities outlining the need to preserve elements of the facade of the building in keeping with the spirit of the town center bylaw. The current proposal from Civico/Greenly seeks to utilize building materials that are not in keeping with the bylaw.

**Other Business:**

1. **CPA/CPC:** Gail reported that at the next HCOMM meeting she and another representative from the Community Preservation Committee will give a short presentation about CPA and gather feedback from the commission. Gail also requested that the commissioners be thinking about existing resources, preservation needs and goals they would like to see implemented in the CPA plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Aslanian  
Secretary

