

**Webster Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2021**

A meeting of the Webster Historical Commission was held via remote participation / Zoom on September 28, 2021 in accordance with Governor Baker's June 16, 2021 Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency.

**Present:** Chairman Ted Avlas, Vice Chairman Curtis Cleaves, Clerk Elaine Davies, and Members Judy Keegan and Reanna Kuzdzal.

**Absent:** Kelly Baldarelli, Member

**Also Present:** Ann Morgan, Director of Planning & Economic Development

**1. Call to Order.** Mr. Avlas called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. and read the notice on the agenda regarding Governor Baker's Order. He took attendance by roll call.

**2. Action Items**

- a. Draft Meeting Minutes - August 24, 2021. This item was tabled.
- b. Membership: Mr. Avlas noted that Ms. Baldarelli has not attended a meeting for six months. In order to provide opportunities for others to serve the Commission should consider requesting that her appointment be rescinded by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with the Town's policies. He noted that several attempts have been made to reach out to Ms. Baldarelli via phone and email with no response. Ms. Davies asked if the Commission should send her a letter indicating the Commission's intent to vacate the appointment. It was noted that the process was outlined in the Town Committee Handbook and that the first step would be to request that the Selectmen vacate the appointment in writing.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to initiate the process to vacate Ms. Baldarelli's appointment in accordance with the Town Committee Handbook made by Mr. Cleaves, seconded by Ms. Davies. Mr. Avlas asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Cleaves – AYE; Ms. Davies – AYE; Ms. Kuzdzal – AYE; Ms. Keegan – AYE; Mr. Avlas – AYE).

**3. Old Business**

- a. Tercentenary Marker – Relocation Plans: Mr. Avlas noted that he had met with Carole Marchand at Memorial Beach to identify a location for the relocated marker. He had also met with Highway Superintendent Kenny Pizzetti at the potential site. Mr. Pizzetti confirmed that there are no conflicts with existing utilities and was willing to assist in preparing the site and installing the marker. Mr. Avlas stated that he would supervise the work but noted that if the work to be completed this year that it would have to happen quickly since the winter weather was coming. Ms. Davies recommended contacting the Nipmuc Nation and include them in the process. Mr. Avlas stated that he would contact them.

The Commission discussed the next steps. It was agreed that sign should be moved first and then proceed with the restoration. Mr. Cleaves stated that there was a foundry in Millbury that might be able to repair the crack which he hoped would be cost effective. Ms. Davies suggested that site preparation / beautification could be a Boy Scout Eagle project. Mr. Avlas noted that Recreation Director Carole Marchand may have contact for the Boy Scouts in Town. The next steps include repairing, cleaning and restoring the marker.

- b. World War II Volunteer Air Observation Station – Memorial Athletic Field. Mr. Avlas noted that he had spoken with Building Commissioner Ted Tetreault regarding the two options for the project – rebuild the existing structure in situ or constructing a replica in a nearby location. Mr. Tetreault stated that he would provide the names of three contractors who could provide quotes for the work. He has also been in contact with the Veteran’s Agent to discuss the costs and potential funding. If possible the Veterans and the Commission could apply for funding from the Town in the FY23 budget presented at Town Meeting. Ms. Keegan asked about the options and what can be done regarding rehab of the existing structure or replicating it in another location. Mr. Avlas stated that he would meet with the recommended contractors to assess the structure and costs of the two options. He noted that the structure is in rough shape but that it didn’t appear to be big project. Ms. Keegan stated that would be nice to keep as much of the original structure as possible and that it was amazing that it was still standing. Mr. Avlas noted that the Veterans were very appreciative of the Commission’s interest in taking on the project and are excited to move forward.
- c. October Town Meeting: Article to fund Preservation Plan. Mr. Avlas noted that he has developed a Town Meeting warrant article to request up to \$25,000 to be drawn from the stabilization fund. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support the warrant article at the recent public hearing on all warrant articles. This will require a 9/10ths vote to pass at Town Meeting which is difficult. If the article doesn’t pass the Commission can present the expenditure as a budget item at the next Town Meeting. Mr. Avlas noted that the Massachusetts Historical Commission FY23 MHPP Grant Application requires a pre-application letter of intent which he and Ann Morgan will work on and submit. Deadline for that submission is November 15, 2021. Mr. Avlas reminded the Commission that Fall Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> in the High School gymnasium. He will step down as Town Moderator to present the article on behalf of the Commission.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Preservation Plan: Review material from 6/26/21 Workshop, New Workshop Date: Ms. Morgan provided an overview of the June 26<sup>th</sup> workshop noting that the upcoming workshop would focus on building on previous topics and move forward to identifying projects and processes for developing a work plan.

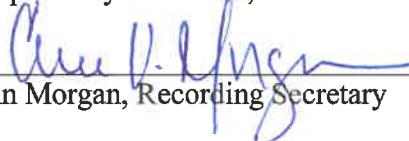
Mr. Avlas noted that the workshop has been scheduled for October 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Ms. Davies asked if there would be advance material for the Commission to review to prepare for that workshop. Ms. Morgan stated that she would send out materials.

**5. Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2021. Local Library Room, Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Cleaves, seconded by Ms. Davies. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Cleaves – AYE; Ms. Davies – AYE; Ms. Kuzdzal – AYE; Ms. Keegan – AYE; Mr. Avlas – AYE). The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Ann Morgan, Recording Secretary