

Meeting Date: September 27, 2021

In Attendance: Maria Boyes (Chair), Jacqueline Brevard (Vice-Chair), Kelly Kessler, Alison Carey, Linda Habgood (TC), Greg Blasi, Matthew Ceberio (PB), Barton Ross (HPO), Mary Anne Healy-Rodriguez (A1), Kathryn Reed (A2), Tom Jardim (HPC Attorney), Katie Spikes, Carol Tener (Town Historian), Robert Wendel.

Absent, Jenny Jaruzelski

The meeting minutes from July 26, 2021, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chair Boyes, seconded by Ms. Brevard. All members were in favor. The minutes were approved by the Commission.

New Business:

Train Station Kiosk

Chair Boyes asked Mr. Wendel to present their findings to the Commission. He explained that through his research he discovered that the train kiosk dates back to 1893. The kiosks were used for distribution of newspapers along the train stations. It is believed that Westfield has the last standing kiosk in the country. The architect has used archived photos to replicate and renovate the Westfield kiosk while maintaining its historical characteristics. It will be opening shortly to allow the residents of Westfield to utilize this renovated space and enjoy its historical features. Chair Boyes and commission members discuss the benefits of this kiosk as well as its historical preservation.

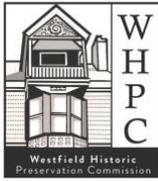
Addendum to Bylaws

Chair Boyes stated that she has been working on this addendum to the Bylaws with Mr. Ross and Mr. Sammet. There have been 2 changes: (N) Review and provide comment to the Zoning Official on demolition permit applications for all potentially historic buildings or structures per the requirements of Section 10 of the Historical Preservation Ordinance and (O) Provide comment to property owners on informal review as per Section 10(F) of the Historical Preservation Ordinance. Upon receipt of an informal review signed by the property owner, the Town Planner shall refer the request to the Chair of the HPC and/or his/her designee, who may include the Town's Historian and/or Historic Preservation Officer. An informal request must be received by the HPC at least 14 days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting in order to be considered. If the Commission has sufficient information to render its opinion, it shall do so at that meeting, by a vote of a majority of those regular or, if necessary, alternate members, then in attendance. Any final opinions by the HPC pursuant to Section 10(F) of the Ordinance shall be provided in writing to the requesting property owner no later than 10 days following the HPC meeting at which the informal review was considered and the related final decision was rendered.

Chair Boyes concluded by stating that each case is unique and has timing guidelines. This update will help expedite the process of the applications as it will require the applicants to provide sufficient information to assist the HPC to make a determination. Chair Boyes asked the commission members if they agreed to amend the Bylaws as re-written. The Commission voted and all were in favor.

HPO Overview

Mr. Ross discussed the application for the Certified Local Government application and receipt of the required information from the HPC commission members. The application is being forwarded to the Mayor for signature and will then be sent in for processing.



Expedited Review Officer Update

Ms. Kessler explained the Expedited Review Amendment and discussed an application on Kimball Avenue. This process allows minor applicants the opportunity to make changes without filing a complete application when no noticeable changes apply. The Kimball Avenue application was deemed acceptable by the Expedited Review Officer. Chair Boyes stated it is a win-win for all.

Committee Updates:

Ms. Carey discussed the Devlin Awards ceremony to be held on October 18, 2021. The invitations were sent. It will be held at Lions Roar, a recipient of an award this year, which allows indoor/outdoor space to accommodate all. Chair Boyes started receiving responses.

Ms. Reed discussed that the Homeowners Relations Welcoming Committee recently welcomed three new homeowners. The HPC committee delivered welcome bags with letters to the residents that live in the historic district. They were very appreciative. One new homeowner in particular is interested in receiving a plaque. Commission members discussed this and were in agreement that a plaque will be ordered for this home.

Chair Boyes closed the meeting and opened to the public for discussion.

Anastasia Harrison, 23 Stoneleigh Park, would like to request to designate her house as historic. She received historical information to support the homes historical background.

Ms. Kessler stated her support and happiness. She felt other homes in the area may follow her lead. She discussed her knowledge of the historical background of Stoneleigh Park.

Chair Boyes also stated her support. She will send Mr. and Mrs. Harrison a letter of consent to be signed and returned to the town.

Councilwoman Habgood thanked Ms. Harrison on behalf of the town of Westfield.

No other public comments. Closed to the public.

Adjournment:

Chair Boyes asked the Commission if there were any more updates. There were none. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chair Boyes and seconded by Ms. Healy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.