

IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, January 9, 2023, 7:00PM Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Officers: Mariana Ovnic (MO), Laura Gresh (LGresh), Lindsay Randall (LR), Rachel Meyer (RM)

Commissioners: Gordon Harris (GH), Stephen Miles (SM), Christine Sarantopoulos (CS), Linda Grimes (LGrimes)

Planning Department: Andrea Bates (AB)

Members of the public: Michael Updike

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

- I. Citizen Queries
 - a. None

- II. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair: Mariana Ovnic. **Motion 2023.1.1** LGresh motioned to elect Mariana Ovnic as Chair. RM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Vice Chair: Laura Gresh. **Motion 2023.1.2** GH motioned to elect Laura Gresh as Vice-Chair. CS seconded. 5 votes in favor
 - c. Secretary: Lindsay Randall. **Motion 2023.1.3** LR motioned to self-nominate as Secretary/Clerk. GH seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Treasurer: Rachel Meyer. **Motion 2023.1.4** RM motioned to self-nominate as Treasurer. SM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. John Updike Plaque
 - a. RM shared an update regarding the Updike Plaque.
 - b. **Motion 2023.1.5** SM moved to accept the budget request for the Updike sign not to exceed \$500. LGrimes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Michael Updike will investigate self-portrait of John Updike RE: copyright issues.
 - d. Michael Updike and RM will work with the Updike Society to secure funds if the cost of the plaque exceeds the previously approved \$500 budget due to portrait addition.
 - e. MO will send a formal letter to the Updike Society requesting additional funding.

- IV. Update on Section 3A
 - a. Discussion regarding concerns related to historic preservation ensued.

- V. "Hill Garage" at Turner Hill
 - a. Discussion related to Coachman Dwelling project and the Hill Garage ensued.
 - b. Drafted letter to the Planning Board regarding project was discussed.

- VI. Adopt minutes
 - a. **Motion 2023.1.6** GH moved to adopt minutes. CS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. New business

- a. GH gave update on the ordering and cost of the Mary Conley awards. Discussion ensued. Commission agreed to schedule separate award presentations to the Select Board for each of the two 2022 Mary Conley Award recipients (one presentation to be done in the near future, and the second preservation to be done when the second plaque arrives).
- b. GH shared information related to John Freeman, an enslaved individual who lived in Ipswich. This research led Essex Heritage to contacting GH regarding putting up a plaque at the corner of East Street and Spring Street to John Freeman who fought in the Revolutionary War. Discussion ensued.
- c. LGresh has been talking to Window Woman of New England about doing a window restoration workshop. Discussion ensued.
- d. LR gave update on the Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition.
- e. RM shared a brief update on Jenny Slew park. CS gave update regarding meeting with the family that enslaved Jenny Slew. More to come next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. **Motion 2023.1.7** RM moved and MO seconded to adjourn the January Historical Commission meeting at 8:58 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Randall
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on February 13, 2023