

Ipswich Historical Commission Minutes
Monthly meeting, April 16, 2019

Members present: John Fiske, chair; Gordon Harris, vice chair; Ruth Strachan; Kerry Mackin. The meeting was chaired by Gordon Harris, who also took the minutes.

Citizen Queries

Gordon introduced Linda George Grimes, attending the meeting as a prospective member or alternate member. Linda is a life-long resident of Ipswich, and has lived in several of the historic houses in the Architectural Preservation District.

Demolition Request for 64 Central Street

The Historical Commission received notification by the Building Inspector's office that a demolition permit has been requested for 64 Central Street, built in approximately 1920. Owner Angelo Ciardiello and Ciardiello's architect Richard Griffin of Salem attended the meeting and presented their plans for the property, which they described as being in poor condition, with sagging floors and outdated electrical and plumbing. Gordon explained that the Commission must determine if the building is significant based on its architecture or a resident of historical significance.

Ruth stated that the architectural features of the house suggest that it is older than 1920, and may have been moved to this location; she is concerned that the little houses of Ipswich are disappearing, along with affordable housing. Ruth felt that the Commission should have had more time to consider the application. Gordon replied that the Demolition Delay Bylaw requires the Historical Commission to determine within 10 days of receiving the demolition request if the building is historic, which would then trigger a public hearing. John stated that he finds no significant historic or architectural features to 64 Central Street. Gordon agreed with John. Kerry made a motion that the Historical Commission does not find 64 Central Street to be sufficiently historically or architecturally significant. Gordon seconded. The vote was taken, with Gordon, John and Kerry in favor of the motion, and Ruth opposing.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Kerry and Ruth suggested that the Commission should review the 10 day timeline in considering changes to the Demolition Delay Bylaw.

Minutes

The minutes from the March regular meeting and the Special Meeting on April 1, 2019 were approved.

Choate Bridge Plaque

John reported that he and Laura have completed the Choate Bridge commemorative plaque design, subject to approval by Glenn Gibbs. Funding is being sought for fabrication of the plaque, including possible use of the Harold Bowen Fund.

Coal Gas Plant Plaque

John stated that we need to move forward in designing the plaque for the former coal gas house on Hammatt St. Gordon suggested that the scope of the plaque be expanded to include Brown Square, which he believes is the first and oldest mixed-use industrial area in Ipswich. Mentioned in the plaque would be the Burke Heel Shoe Factory, Barton Stone, C.M. Jewett Grain Company, Canney Lumber, along with Brown's Coal Gas Complex and Hammatt Street. The Commission was in agreement to Gordon's proposal

17 Mineral Street

Gordon reported that the Adamowicz family, owners of the house at 17 Mineral Street wish to establish a preservation agreement for the house. The wording would follow the usual format:

- That the Historical Commission finds the house to have significant historical architectural value and is worthy of preservation.
- That the Preservation Agreement would be between the owners and the Town of Ipswich with the Historical Commission acting as agent.

The meeting agreed by consensus to be party to the Preservation Agreement. Gordon will report to the owners, who will work with a lawyer to create the document.

Farley Brook Area

As a follow-up to the previous item, Gordon recommended that the Commission consider establishing the neighborhood from Washington Street to Central Street as an historic district. The Town of Ipswich has 4 historic districts in the oldest part of town, plus the Ipswich Mills and Brownville Ave. Historic Districts. In the mid-19th Century, Farley Brook was trenched, draining the wetland, creating Central Street, and making possible the construction of residences on adjoining streets including Mineral, Liberty, Manning, as well as Washington Street. The neighborhood has an assortment of Folk Victorian and Italianate houses, in addition to previously-existing houses from earlier periods.

John moved that a committee be created to begin identifying structures in the district for future inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Gordon, Ruth and Linda George Grimes agreed to form the committee.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Harris
Vice-chairman

approved May 13, 2019