



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Town of Chilmark

MEETING NOTES - APPROVED **January 29, 2024 (Zoom Only)**

Present for the Historical Commission and attending the meeting were Barbara Armstrong - Chair, James (Jim) Malkin, John Flender, Katie Carroll, Jane Slater and Alison Kisselgof – Administrator. Patty Egan was also in attendance.

Lenny Jason was not in attendance.

The meeting came to order at 3:00 PM.

UNANTICIPATED TOPIC: Alison said that the Martha's Vineyard Museum had just informed her that there was a \$250 membership level. Alison asked if members would prefer a membership at the \$250 level instead of \$500. She mentioned the difference between the levels was how many admission passes were included – 10 passes at \$250 as opposed to 20 passes at the \$500 level. Alison also mentioned to Barbara that the Museum was expecting her upcoming visit and she did not need a pass because her name was at the door.

A motion was made to change the Historical Commission's membership to the \$250 level and seconded. The motion passed by unanimous approval.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT APPROVAL: The Commission members had no suggested edits to the draft 2023 annual report. A motion to approve the report as written was made. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

3 UNCAS AVE IN OAK BLUFFS – MVC REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Rick Saltzberg from the Martha's Vineyard Commission had reached out to the Historical Commission about the planned demolition of the house at 3 Uncas Avenue in Oak Bluffs. Rick's letter included some history of the house which was owned Stephen Flanders, a whaling captain from Chilmark. Rick asked if the Commission had any recommendations about the house removal since it had some historical significance to the Town. The Commission discussed what the procedure would be if the house was located in Chilmark, which would be, if the house was structurally sound, to advertise for a number of months to see if anyone would be interested in moving the house. It was decided that the Commission would send a letter back recommending a similar procedure be followed for the Stephen Flanders house.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made to accept the draft minutes from the December 4th meeting as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MORE UNANTICIPATED TOPICS: Barbara said that she was having trouble with the display of net needles from the Rasmus Klimm collection which was intended for display at the Menemsha Harbormaster building. She offered that no adhesive used so far had kept the needles secured and that sewing the needles in place might be the only way to keep the needles in place but she could not do this herself. Barbara asked for a recommendation of someone who could do this.

Barbara had found some pictures of her father with Rasmus Klimm, which she shared with the other members. She said that she would like to donate these pictures to the Town to possibly be displayed with the net needles. Barbara mentioned that the pictures were framed copies and that she had more pictures in this collection as well.



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Alison said that Patty Egan was joining the meeting to further discuss the fencing outside the Police Station in the old School House. Barbara said that she was expecting Patty to bring pictures of proposed replacement fencing. Jane offered that she recalled the removal of the old swing set being discussed also. Katie concurred with Jane's recollection and added that she would prefer the fence not be split rail, which she felt was not in the character of the area. Jane made a motion to reconsider the fencing at the next meeting and that Patty should bring some visual representations for the Commission to consider. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Patty mentioned that there was also talk of just removing the fence and not replacing it. There was a brief discussion about people parking their cars along the road and whether it would be an issue. Patty said that she would return to the next meeting with some pictures to share.

DOCUMENTS:

Draft 2023 Historical Commission Annual Report

Draft Minutes from 12/4/23 Meeting

NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING: TBD

With no further business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Kisselgof, Board Administrator.