



# HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Town of Chilmark

### **MEETING NOTES - DRAFT** **April 1, 2024 (Hybrid Meeting)**

Present for the Historical Commission and attending the meeting were Barbara Armstrong - Chair, James (Jim) Malkin, John Flender (entered meeting at 3:12 PM on Zoom), Katie Carroll, Jane Slater, Lenny Jason (entered meeting at 3:15 PM on Zoom) and Alison Kisselgof – Administrator. Patty Egan and Tim Carroll were also in attendance.

The meeting came to order at 3:02 PM.

**OLD SCHOOLHOUSE/POLICE STATION FENCING CONTINUED DISCUSSION:** Patty said that she received an estimate to remove the fencing in front of the police station – the total estimate was \$3000 which included trucking fees and disposal. Patty asked how this removal could be funded, specifically if Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds could be used. Jane suggested checking with CPC Board Administrator Carolyn Stoeber to see if there were funds available. Jim offered that more funds could be requested from the reserve if necessary.

There was a discussion about whether the fencing could just be removed or whether a replacement fence should be installed. The consensus was to remove the fencing now and make a decision about whether a new fence is needed later. In light of the cost to remove the fencing, it was decided that the playground would be left in place for now.

Patty said that there were other needed repairs to the building. It was mentioned that the Police Department may have capital funds to put towards maintenance. Patty was asked to write a prioritized list of repairs for the building and then CPC or other funds could be considered for the repairs. Jim offered that once total needs are assessed, a warrant could be brought to a special town meeting in the fall to fund the work if needed. He also suggested a working group of Patty, Tim and a Commission member meet to prioritize the repairs. Katie volunteered to represent the Commission for this group.

**CPC FUND REQUESTS FOR STONE WALL PRESERVATION:** The Commission received an email from the CPC regarding a request from David Lundgren for funds to repair the stone wall along his property's border with North Road.

There was a conversation about what funds are available for stone wall restoration. Tim offered that there is a special fund for stone wall restoration which the CPC has to get the Commission's recommendations to allocate. He suggested looking up the original warrant article language to see if any specific road were mentioned, which may restrict fund usage. After a discussion amongst the Commission members about what was already offered to Mr. Lundgren in 2022 when he requested funds from the Commission directly, a motion was made to that the Commission would stand by its original offer to pay up to \$5000 towards restoration of the stone wall along the Lundgren property on North Road. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There was another email from Heather Norton about stone wall restoration funds from the CPC. It was unclear which property Ms. Norton might be inquiring about. The Commission suggested replying to Ms. Norton that only stone walls along public ways were eligible for CPC funds for restoration and that Middle Road was the current priority. It was mentioned that Ms. Norton was still welcome to send in an application for stone wall repair to be considered.

**TOWER LANE MACRIS RECOMMENDATION REQUEST:** Jeffrey DuBard emailed the Commission to inquire about support for the houses at his Tower Lane properties to be added to the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). These buildings are mid-century modern architecture and are not historic by the town's definition (reference by-law 2.27). Jeffrey had emailed a presentation to the Board which Alison shared on screen for members to view.



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Jefrey mentioned that, in his conversation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), it was suggested that he acquire local support for MACRIS inclusion. The Commission asked how many buildings on the property would be included – Jeffrey replied there were 2 buildings that would qualify.

It was mentioned that another request to support mid-century modern architecture for MACRIS listing had been denied and that houses would need to be at least 100 years old to be considered historic in the town. Jeffrey offered a conversation that he had with Diana Barrett, Bob Villa's wife, about the importance of this type of architecture. The Commission supported writing a letter to MHC supporting Jeffrey's request in which it would be mentioned that the buildings don't fall within the historical parameters of the town but the Commission acknowledged the significance of the architectural design. Lenny asked which architect designed the buildings and Jeffrey replied that the buildings were designed by Araldo Cossutta. Jeffrey thanked the Commission for their support and said he would return at a later date after speaking to his advisors to request the letter be written.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made to accept the draft minutes from the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**UNANTICIPATED TOPICS:** Barbara mentioned that the town's maintenance of the stone walls on North Road looked beautiful and wanted to write a letter to town's Superintendent of Streets Keith Emin to acknowledge the great work. Other Commission members supported Barbara writing a letter.

**DOCUMENTS:**

Draft Minutes from 1/29/24 Meeting

2-29-24 Email from Carolyn Stoeber RE: David Lundgren Request

Jefrey DuBard Town Lane presentation

**NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING:** TBD

With no further business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 3:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Kisselgof, Board Administrator.