

Hadley Historical Commission Minutes for August 25, 2015 Compiled by Jeffrey Mish

Members Present: Jeffrey Mish, Ginger Goldsbury, Linda Ziegenbein, Margaret Freeman, Marjorie Pratt Townsend

Absent: Tom McGee

Guests: Kate Kentfield, Carly Filler

Meeting came to order at 7:00. The amended July minutes were approved after the changes Ziegenbein and Goldsbury recommended were implemented. These included the shifting of paragraphs about the Pelissier site plan to read in chronological order, as well as the inclusion of the word "European" in relation to "Contact."

Barstow Farm

Carly Filler, of Vanguard Renewables, came to the board with a site plan to expand the existing anaerobic digester located at 12 Barstow Lane. The digester was built in 2013 and contains manure and food byproducts of methane. Its purpose is to create renewable energy.

Barstow Farm is located within the Hockanum Rural Historic District, which is included in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Ziegenbein moved to approve the plan, everyone seconded.

MassDOT

Goldsbury received word from MassDOT regarding the Commission's request that they come to a meeting and explain their updated Route 9 expansion plan. MassDOT replied by asking the Commission for a list of concerns. The Commission has the following issues and suggestions:

1. The bike lane seems arbitrary and does not appear to have any clear beginning or ending.
2. An archaeological survey should be undertaken in the areas of construction. Particularly, on historic sites of impact, such as Russell School and the Goodwin Memorial Library.
3. The impact of large trucks passing closer to historic properties.
4. What is the intention of MassDOT in expanding Russell Street, and why not any expansion in that section of Route 9 east of East Street where bottlenecks are likely to occur?
5. What does MassDOT plan to do with the snow?
6. Did MassDOT take into consideration the existing bus stops?

McQueston House

Margaret Freeman received a call from an anonymous resident of West Street who was concerned about the creation of a “parking lot” on town land near the Common in front of the McQueston House. Considering that the McQueston House is the oldest house in Hadley, and that the Common is a unique historic resource, the Commission plans to send a memo to the building inspector (Tim Neyhart) and town administrator (David Nixon) regarding the legality, authorization, and historic impact of such a development. [David Nixon responded to the memo by stating that he had no prior knowledge of the parking lot, other than a complaint he had received the previous week].

Sportsman’s Marina

The Commission continued its discussion of the Pelissier site plan after Linda Ziegenbein found that “There have been artifacts recovered from two sites in the area between Aqua Vitae Road and the CT River, all Native American tools dating from 6000-3000BP to contact [with Europeans]. These were collected by W.S. Rodiman who identified many sites in Hadley in the 19th century.” Ziegenbein indicated, however, that the Commission could only require Pelissier to have an archaeological survey performed if public funding was involved.

In response to Ziegenbein’s finding, the Commission will attach a memo to the site plan approval form, presenting its preference for an archaeological survey to be undertaken on the site of proposed construction [a letter discussing the archaeological significance of the piece was sent to Pelissier, as well as all departments that received the site plan approval form].

Goldsbury made a motion to adjourn at 8:30, Ziegenbein seconded.