

Cohasset Historical Commission Minutes of Meeting

May 8th, 2023

Members present: Jacqueline Dormitzer, Jill Crafts, Martin St. John, Mark St. Onge, and Megan Elder.

The meeting was called to order at 6:50.

Establishing a New Local Historic District

The Commission was joined by Select Person Jean Dippold, Historical Society Executive Director Lynne DeGiacomo, and Planning Board member Amy Glasmeier. The group covered many topics surrounding the potential of a new local historic district including how it would differ from the current one for the Common, how we'd get people to buy in, and the reasons why we're exploring the creation of a new district. In regards to the Elm Street corridor potentially being selected, a key point was raised: This area will soon be under significant duress due to flood zones. It's likely that many Elm Street residents will soon be within a flood zone if they're not already. Given the financial impact to residents in a flood zone, these residents could view a historic district as an additional and unnecessary expense.

Other areas of town were discussed, but the group landed on the village as the next best contender. It was mentioned that the Select Board frequently receives complaints about the state of the buildings in the village. These owners would need to maintain their property if sitting within a local historic district, and this requirement could be a strong selling point to the general public.

Next steps are: requesting funds from the CPC to fund a study of historical resources in the proposed village historic district, and finding another nearby town that has successfully created a new local historic district in the past five years - they could potentially mentor us through this process.

Our next meeting will be held on June 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Elder, Secretary