

## **BILLERICA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES**

**February 5, 2024**

A joint meeting of the Billerica Historic District Commission and the Billerica Historical Commission was held on Monday February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by Katherine Malgieri.

Present: Travis Brown, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Richard Hawes, Member; Michael Rea, Member; Kathy Meagher, Alt Member; Mary Jones, Alt Member; Dan Valentine, Alt Member; Katherine Malgieri, Planning Board; and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk

Absent: David Gagliardi, Chairman; John McKenna, Member; George Simolaris, Member; Matthew Ahern, Alt Member; and Tina Pesiridis, Alt Member

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Erika Oliver Jerram, Director of Planning and Community Development introduced herself and the two Commissions meeting tonight for a joint discussion regarding the Historic Survey Plan. Erika had each commission call their meetings to orders.

Chairman Alec Ingraham called the Historical Commission meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Secretary Mary McBride called the Historic District Comm meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Erika then proceeded to introduce tonight's guest speaker Historic Preservation Consultant, Wendy Frontiero. Also explaining that Billerica has a \$20,000 project and received a \$10,000 grant from Mass Historic Commission with a \$10,000 match from the Community Preservation Commission to undertake the Historic Survey Plan. There are three phases to this project, and it needs to be completed by June 30, 2024. The Phase One report

Dan Valentine left the meeting at 6:16 pm.  
Travis Brown joined the meeting at 6:28 pm.

### **Joint Meeting to Discuss Historic Survey Plan Project**

Wendy started by saying this a great project for towns to do. The most recent survey is 50 years old and standards for documenting properties have changed and more needs to be documented. Mass Historic likes to have a comprehensive inventory so they can evaluate properties the national registry better. Also helps Mass Historic when they do their environmental review and for state and federally funded projects. The purpose of this project is to analyze what has already been documented and to make recommendations for new work that should be done or updated. The age criteria are 50 years, Mass Historical uses this as their threshold for projects.

The Phase I report that was submitted a few weeks ago and is the first of three. Wendy went over the aspects of the report. There are five areas considered in the Phase one

report Neighborhood Overviews – see page 14 of the report for the five areas. The areas are: The Town Center, North Billerica, East Billerica, South Billerica aka Pinehurst, and West Billerica.

Billerica has over 500 documented properties and half of them are already protected by Local Historic District, regulations, or the National register Designation. There is a lot more that can be done geographically and in terms of building types.

Wendy went on to explain what has already been completed and what still needs to be completed. Then there was great discussion with everyone regarding all the villages in the town and how to preserve them. Then spoke about the survey priorities and threats historic resources, 1960's subdivisions, summer cottages, and other clusters. Looking at surveying municipal buildings, fire stations, churches, cemeteries, mill buildings, schools, and possibly old industrial buildings. They spoke about properties to preserve such as the Indian Spring at the Wiffle Tree and extending historic districts.

Travis Brown left the meeting at 7:17

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting concluded at 7:21 with Erika stating to send her any information, photographs, drawings, writings etc. that may be helpful.

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Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk