

TOWN OF STOW  
GLEASONDALE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 28, 2022 Gleasondale Local Historic District Study Committee Meeting

Members present: Margaret Costello, Eve Fischer, Dorothy Spaulding

Members absent: Jen Gero, Catherine Hammill

Margaret Costello called the meeting to order at 2:00PM

*Dorothy Spaulding motioned to approve the minutes of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as amended  
Eve Fischer seconded*

**Roll Call Vote:** Eve Fischer **-Yea**; Margaret Costello **-Yea**; Dorothy Spaulding **-Yea**

### **Annual Committee Organization**

Assistant Planner Malcolm Ragan reported that Jen Gero and Catherine Hammill will not be seeking re-appointment to the Committee when their terms expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Malcolm Ragan said he will verify the requirements for seeking nominations from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and chapter of the American Institute of Architects and provide language to request nominations to the Select Board. Committee members discussed possible appointments should the Select Board not receive any responses.

The Committee agreed to reorganize at the first meeting of FY2023 to provide time for possible new appointments.

### **Review Recent Public Outreach**

Margaret Costello summarized a letter she sent to Gleasondale residents, addressed by the Gleasondale Steering Committee rather than the Gleasondale Local Historic District Study Committee. (The Gleasondale Steering Committee is a neighborhood organization and is appointed separately to this committee) Margaret Costello said she received several responses by email agreeing that additional neighborhood preservation and improvements are necessary.

### **Committee Next Steps**

Eve Fischer said that a Local Historic District does not seem like the best preservation tool for Gleasondale, and that there does not seem to be a great deal of support for such a district. Eve Fischer said future outreach should clearly identify the differences between a Local Historic District and a National Register of Historic Places District. Dorothy Spaulding said that Gleasondale residents were concerned about losing control of their properties under a proposed Local Historic District and noted that National Register Districts allow property owners to seek historic preservation tax credits.

Margaret Costello said the work that was done toward a Local Historic District proposal can be the basis for other historic preservation strategies. Margaret Costello said a future outreach event should focus on presenting all the historic preservation tools available and allow for Gleasondale residents to react to all those options. Resident Carol Veducchio asked if a historic preservation tools presentation could include

other neighborhoods of Stow that have been considered for preservation districts. Margaret Costello said she is concerned a town-wide discussion would stoke property owner's fears of losing control even in areas where no preservation district has been proposed.

Dorothy Spaulding said the Gleasondale Steering Committee should play a role in promoting a future preservation tools forum. Town Planner Jesse Steadman said he agrees with the committee about the need for a historic preservation tools presentation. Jesse Steadman suggested the presentation include an overview of demolition delay bylaws. Jesse Steadman said he believes residents will express preference for a National Register of Historic Place district.

The Committee tentatively scheduled an historic preservation tools public forum for October 27<sup>th</sup>, pending a possible Special Town Meeting in October. The Committee agreed to expand the Gleasondale Steering Committee mailing list to include several newer residents.

Planning staff offered to send members the recording of a historic preservation presentation given by Chris Skelly of the Mass Historical Commission from 2017. Committee members agreed that the upcoming presentation should cover similar topics and policy tools.

*Dorothy Spaulding motioned to adjourn*  
*Eve Fischer seconded*

Respectfully submitted,  
Malcolm Ragan