Groton Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2022

Virtual meeting/7PM

Members present: Michael Danti, Michael LaTerz, Aubrey Theall, George Wheatley, Joshua Vollmar, Allen King, Bob DeGroot

Guest: Bob Anderson

Attendees: Judy Anderson, Ginger Vollmar, Chip Detwiller

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01PM. Bob DeGroot explains that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and determine how the committee will respond to a potential demolition permit application for Prescott House.  Aubrey Theall briefs the committee on a recent meeting with Land Use Director Takashi Tada and his advice to begin organizing now.  The Town's Demolition delay process is time sensitive.

2. Bob DeGroot introduces Bob Anderson's proposed agenda addition.  Aubrey moves to amend the agenda to include this addition. Allen King seconds.  Roll call vote was unanimous in favor 7-0.

Agenda is amended to include the following:

"While Commission and public comments will again urge “preservation", years of discussion among the Commission,  the subcommittee, and some members of the public have not found a viable, funded, solution to preserving Prescott House, either for public use ($1M restoration cost plus at least $0.5M endowment to fund $20K annual maintenance and some organization’s overhead costs) or just for a scenic presence ($1M endowment for $40K annual maintenance, envelope repairs (new roof, wood rot, water entry, humidity/mold,…..), security (squatter prevention), and some organization's overhead.

Therefore it would be appreciated if the Historic Commission would inform the Building Inspector, in the language of the Demolition Bylaw:

(1)            The Historical Commission is satisfied that there is no reasonable likelihood that either the owner or some other person or group is willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate or restore such building;"

3. Committee then discusses whether or not Prescott House is of architectural and/or historical significance.  Committee also discusses whether or not it will invoke the demolition delay bylaw in the event a demolition permit application is filed for Prescott House.  Committee agrees unanimously that Prescott House is of architectural and historic significance.  Committee also unanimously agrees that it will invoke the demolition delay bylaw in the event a demolition permit application is filed for Prescott House.

4. Bob Anderson addresses the committee.  Explains that Groton Hill music feels all available preservation options have been explored with no success. He advises the committee to support demolition of Prescott House.

5. Chair invites the Attendees to speak. Ginger Vollmar expresses support for preservation.  Chip Detwiller also expresses support for preservation.

6. Motion to adjourn made by Aubrey. Michael Danti seconds.  Roll Call vote is unanimous in favor, 7-0.  Meeting is adjourned at 7:34PM.