

Approved at
19 May 2016 meeting



Special Meeting
Friday, 13 May 2016
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair
Jim Maggiore
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones

Absent: Nancy Monaghan

1. Called to Order at 9:33 AM
2. Discretionary Barn Easement Applications

83 Walnut Ave. The Chair had distributed previously the owner's application. Members had also received copies of the applicable pages from the North Hampton Historical Society's "Barn Book" which documents some notable barns. Members had driven by the residential property and some had arranged visits to tour the structure.

The Chair asked members for their opinions. Comments noted that the barn had been repaired and maintained by owners over the years with major repairs including the foundation and roof. Members felt it met the three criteria: age, visibility, and significance. Several noted that the interior barn features also remain and that overall it is a remarkable property. The owner mentioned that he expects to apply for the State and / or National Register.

[Cuetara left 9:53AM. Hillier to vote for him.]

Robie moved, Currivan seconded and all approved the motion recommending to the Select Board that the applicant be taxed on 25% of its assessed value or a 75% reduction. All also

agreed that the square footage of the entire barn structure and attached milk house be included for a footprint of 1793.49 sq. ft.

144 Lafayette Rd. Members noted that this commercial property is a landmark and the previous owner, aided by the current owner, resurrected the two barns. Etela passed around copy prints provided by the owner of the property before the repairs. Several commented on the stone foundation and the features that remain visible. The footprint of the structure is 4981 sq. ft. excluding the elevator and the new connector between the buildings.

Hillier moved, Robie seconded a motion to recommend to the Select Board that it approve an assessment at 75% of its value or a 25% reduction. The motion passed unanimously.

A long discussion ensued about how to improve the workflow and communication between Town Offices' staff and the Heritage Commission including whether an application is complete or not, the time it is received and accepted as a complete application, the forwarding of the application to the Heritage Commission, and the Assessor's role, if any, prior to the Heritage Commission's review.

[Jones left 10:43am]

Maggiore volunteered to develop a flow chart similar to what Hillier prepared for the demolition review process to ensure barn easement applications are handled more smoothly next year.

For this year, Swank will send the minutes to Maggiore and the other SB members. The Select Board must post a public hearing and render a decision by June 15th.

Meeting adjourned. 11 am.

Cynthia Swank
Recording Secretary