

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Town Clerk's Lobby  
April 11, 2016

Members Present: Heather von Mering (Chair), Jenny Adams, Janet Boswell, John Clemson,  
Jack LeMenager, Michelle McCarthy

Absent: Bruce Hickey

Also present: Kathryn Emmitt, EMPIRE Telecom – Compliance Manager  
Paul Wright, EMPIRE Telecom – Architectural Historian.

**General Business**

Chair Heather von Mering called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

**EMPIRE Telecom**

Application for modification to existing telecom facility at Winchester Converse Place. The Massachusetts Historical Commission is requesting comments from the Winchester Historical Commission in regards to this application. Kathryn Emmitt presented to the Commission the proposed changes to the facility. Three existing antennas are proposed to be replaced by 3 newer antennas. These antennas are visible above the roofline of the building. The replacement antennas are smaller than the existing ones and will be painted to match the building.

*Motion* That the Historical Commission approve the EMPIRE Telecom proposal as presented. The application has no negative effects on the National Historic District. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5 in Favor      0 Opposed      VOTED  
Absent: Bruce Hickey

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Heather von Mering requested that all members review the March 28, 2016 public meeting minutes. Heather requested the addition of the following comments in regards to 19 Dix Street property

***Maureen Meister - 38 Ranglely Road*** addressed the audience to provide the background to the 19 Dix street property. *The Conservation Commission is the entity that provided the demolition delay to that specific property.*

An additional comment will be added after Wayne Engle's comment in regards to developers.

*Heather von Mering responded: She agrees not all developers are bad. The Commission wants to have responsible developers working in Winchester.*

*Motion* That the Historical Commission approve the March 28, 2016 public meeting minutes as amended at table. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5 in Favor      0 Opposed      VOTED  
Absent: Bruce Hickey

Chair Heather von Mering requested that all members review the February 11, 2016 meeting minutes.

*Motion* That the Historical Commission approve the February 11, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5 in Favor      0 Opposed      VOTED  
Absent: Bruce Hickey

**Town Meeting Warrant Article**

Janet Boswell stated she has written and re-written a letter to the editor to be published in the Winchester Star newspaper hopefully this week. Michelle McCarthy stated she thought that maybe each Commission member could email a copy of this letter to all of the Town Meeting Members in their precinct.

The committee discussed the public meeting and supporters/non-supporters in attendance.

Heather von Mering stated that the Commission will not be meeting with the Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. The Finance Committee will not address the Historical Commission warrant article until it is put before them at spring Town Meeting. Discussion in regards to writing a letter to the Finance Committee asking for an analysis of the economic effects to the Town's school, public safety and water/sewer issues if for every 1 house demolished 2 are built in its place.

Discussed the letter from Selectman Stephen Powers in regards to keeping the bylaw as it currently is and the ability to opt in. If the proposed by-law does pass than an additional 2316 properties will be added to the delay list. If the opt in method were to be instituted it probably would not be considered legal. Due to the fact that it would be based on personal preference which does not offer equal protection to all properties. The Town would then not be eligible to receive preservation grants from the government.

**Other Business**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Stevens, Recording Secretary

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Heather von Mering, Chair

Date