



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Members:

Passiglia, John, chair (2024)
Conti, Scott (2023)
Blagg, Tim (2023)
Mayo, Doug (2024)
Jones, Margo (2023)
David Brock (2023)
Abbey, Matt (2025)

Meeting Minutes for: 4/6/2023

Meeting began at: 5:03 p.m. at the Zon Center

Members present: John Passiglia, Margo Jones, Scott Conti, Tim Blagg, David Brock, Matt Abbey, Doug Mayo.

Visitors: Jim Terapane, Our Museum of Industrial Heritage; Mary Byrne, The Greenfield Recorder; Meryl LaTronica, and Laura Fisher, Just Roots; Jeff Manley, Jones Whitset Architects; Henry Albin, JWA; John Williams, Franklin Community Coop; Julia Scannell, The Community Builders; Tom Douglas, Thomas Douglas Architects; Doug Kelleher, Epsilon Associates; Chris Legiadre, TCB. March minutes will be sent out this month.

Old Business:

- The Commission has decided to award the next Peter Miller Award to Mark and Barbara Zaccheo for their work on various projects around town, many of which have preserved buildings that might otherwise have been razed.
- John said the CPC has awarded all of the historical grants, in at least some amount. Also, a Mass. Historical Commission grant has been awarded for a study of process for the updating of the town's historic buildings survey. Margo Jones will be the local coordinator.
- Tim Blagg suggested that we try to find a local proponent of a town-wide historical signage project to be submitted in next year's CPC process.

New Business:

- There was an extensive presentation of the plan for the rehabilitation of Wilson's Department Store building on Main Street (circa 1876) by Franklin Community Coop and The Community Builders, the new owner. There will be renovations, demolition and a new addition. An original front staircase, now enclosed, will be put back into use. The Coop will be downstairs, while some 64-65 units of mixed income housing will be located upstairs. It is a joint venture in all respects. The Coop plans to double its retail space while tripling its production area. Tim Blagg suggested that perhaps a small portion of the building's present 1960s-era façade be preserved and located in a conference room or other public space. The tentative timeline runs out to spring 2025. This was a preliminary visit, with more to follow that might require Commission action. Commission member Doug Mayo commented that he is happy to see that handicap access is an essential part of the planning.

- Just Roots, a non-profit that operates one of the largest SNAP-enrolled, low-income Community Supported Agriculture farm share programs in Massachusetts, is located at the town's former Poor Farm on Leyden Road. Representatives informed the Commission that the group plans to continue renovating and preserving its two barns, leased from the city. The older structure probably dates from the 1870s. Various grants have been obtained under the Food Insecurity Infrastructure program.

The session was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on May 4 at the Zon Center.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Blagg, secretary.

