

## **Meeting Minutes**

**APPROVED**

### **Local Historic District Study Committee**

Tuesday, October 03, 2023

12 Kent Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room

**Members Present:** Chair Robin Etheridge, Vice Chair Joy Michaud, Secretary Elizabeth Paliga, Lon Hachmeister, Bethany Groff Dorau

**Members Absent:** N/A

Chair Robin Etheridge opened the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

### **Introduction & Welcome to New Committee Member, Bethany Groff Dorau, Executive Director of the Museum of Old Newbury**

Robin Etheridge thanked Madison Vlass for her service on the committee. Bethany Dorau introduced herself to the committee and audience.

### **Reading of the Lower Green Study Committee's Mission Statement and Purpose & Goals**

Vice Chair Joy Michaud read the Mission Statement and Purpose & Goals into the record.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was passed by all present.

### **Review & Approve Study Report Outline and Table of Contents:**

Secretary Elizabeth Paliga read out the Annotated Study Report Outline for the audience to discuss the general layout of the Study Report. Elizabeth Paliga then brought up Massachusetts Historical Commission grant for planning and surveys that would be applicable for the writing of the Study Report. The application is due at the end of October and the committee agreed to look into what the grant would require and if it's feasible. Bethany Groff Dorau and Lon Hachmeister both offered their grant writing experiences.

The committee then read through the proposed Study Report Outline

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the proposed Study Report Outline, which was approved by all present.

The committee proceeded to then begin reviewing the Draft Study Plan. The Museum of Old Newbury is hosting an event on October 23<sup>rd</sup> concerning the early history of Newbury. Lon Hachmeister mentioned a Historical Commission committee member who's written an Indigenous history who will be approached for assistance in researching the early history of the area. Robin Etheridge mentioned another Indigenous scholar he has reached out to, and Bethany Groff Dorau expressed familiarity with the same scholar and mentioned several other good resources to use.

Joy Michaud brought up the 2009 video 'Save the Lower Green, Newbury' on YouTube and how it could be used by the committee as part of public outreach.

The committee reviewed the first half of the Draft Study Plan item by item to flesh out the Study Report and necessary steps to write it. There were a few questions regarding some historical research and sources. Elizabeth Paliga will check previous committee member, Madison Vlass's notes and files for her work on Indigenous history. Bethany Groff Dorau mentioned The

Trustees of Reservations should have a landscape plan for their property near the Lower Green which would mention any archaeology that's been completed. The committee at large will check on this.

#### **Review & Approve Study Report Precis:**

Joy Michaud read out the drafted precis describing the significance of the Lower Green and why the committee is undertaking this study report. This document will be part of a brief presentation for the Select and Planning Boards and be incorporated into the opening pages of the Study Report.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the precis and was approved by all present.

#### **Plan Next Study Report Assignments**

This item was tabled until the next committee meeting as the full Draft Study Plan was not approved due to lack of time.

#### **Update on Newbury Citizen Survey Outreach & Responses**

Joy Michaud summarized her efforts to make sure the survey and relevant committee information was at Newbury Day in August. Surveys and QR codes to the same survey were available at the Lower Green Schoolhouse on the day and continue to be available every day the schoolhouse is open. Despite these efforts, few surveys have been received.

Elizabeth Paliga mentioned she has not received any information from the town regarding using Newbury's social media to disseminate the survey. She will continue to pursue this.

Lon Hachmeister will follow up with the town on if it is possible to send a second survey (about specific features that the local historic district would protect or exempt from review) out on a watermarked page with the quarterly town taxes, and what the process might be if it is.

#### **Public Comment:**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

#### **Adjournment:**

The next meeting of the Local Historic District Study Committee was set for **Monday, October 30<sup>re</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

The committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Paliga". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Elizabeth Paliga  
Secretary, Local Historic District Study Committee