William Street Historic District Commission (WSHDC)

Tisbury Historical Commission (THC)

January 3, 2024

Tisbury EMS Building

Present: John Bacheller, Leo Christian, Judy Federowicz (chair), Bowdoin Van Riper, Akeyah Lucas (administrative assistant), Amelia Hambrecht (member of the public)

Meeting was called to order by the chair at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of November 1st meeting minutes will be delayed until the February 7th meeting; minutes for the December 6th meeting were approved.

New Business

1. Town Reports are due on Friday, January 5th; JFederowicz will reach out to the previous chair for details.

2. Budgets are also due on Friday, January 5th; the administrative assistant’s salary will be added, and the cost of Vineyard Gazette advertisements is no longer necessary, as notices will be sent out to abutters. There was also a question of the need for filing cabinets; JFederowicz and ALucas will plan a visit to the current storage location of WSHDC files.

1. Review of application for 89 William Street:

* Partial roof replacement to match existing was approved.

Old Business

1. The owner of a property on Lagoon Pond Road, Amelia Hambrecht, presented the plans for the relocation of the historic Caleb Prouty House. The project is currently under review at the MVC, and requires a special permit from the Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from the height restriction. The commission offered to submit a letter of support for the project. Ms. Hambrecht also noted the deteriorating conditions of multiple historic structures at 3 Hines Point; she is of the impression that the owner may be allowing the house to be “demolished by neglect”. When asked, JFederowicz stated that there is little that the Tisbury Historic Commission can do regarding property not in the historic district.
2. JFederowicz spoke with Nancy Hall, the owner of 63 Spring Street; Ms. Hall was unaware that her contractor, Pat Brown, had not applied to the WSHDC. Per Mr. Brown, the following work is to be done on the barn: reshingling of rear and side facing Town Hall; window replacement at rear and two on Town Hall side with custom windows made of wood; and painting of the front and west sides. The commission determined that this work is considered repair/maintenance, and the motion to approve as submitted was passed.
3. Regarding screening of the ground-mounted solar array installed at 36 Woodlawn Avenue, JFederowicz spoke with Reverend Stephen Harding of the Grace Episcopal Church; rhododendron, lilac, mock orange, and other shrubs will be planted in the spring. Following this, discussion ensued regarding the authority and liability of the commission when it comes to projects outside of their purview.
4. JFederowicz compared and contrasted the Oak Bluffs and Edgartown Historic District Commissions, and reviewed the Edgartown HDC’s membership makeup and procedures. Discussion ensued regarding time limits in which the commission is required to act, the application process itself, the number of members on the commission, and the makeup of the commission. BVan Riper emphasized the importance of making the Selectboard more responsible for their role in the nominating process, as written in the bylaws. He was asked by JFederowicz to revise the bylaw to include the appointment of five full-time members and three alternate members who live in the Town of Tisbury, including, if possible, an architect.
5. JFederowicz will write a letter to the owner of 84 William Street regarding the paint color of the front door.
6. BVan Riper asked the group if the guidelines for what needs to be reviewed by the commission are clear, as he felt there should be a single page, bullet-pointed document available for homeowners and contractors to easily reference. Also, a list of properties in the WSHD by street address, rather than map and lot, would be preferable.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7th.