



Town of Edgartown

Historic District Commission

Post Office Box 4000

70 Main Street

Edgartown, MA 02542

~Historic District Commission~

Minutes

June 2, 2025



Members in attendance: Carole Berger, Ken Magnuson, Susan Catling, Robbie Hutchison, Edith Blake. Staff: Bricque Garber.

Ms. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:00.

New/Old Business:

There being no new applications to consider for this meeting. Bricque told the commissioners that she had attended the MV Commission, round table discussion regarding historic buildings on the Island. Chairman Cisek, Ann Floyd and Edith Blake attended, as well. One of the items discussed was that of Demolition Delay as pertains to older homes. In addition, Bricque provided the members with a Boston Globe article called A Demolition to Far which references an 1887 home in Weston, MA. The round table discussion as well as the article made reference to the extension of Demolition Delays as an option and a tool to work with homeowners in an attempt to save rather than demolish historic homes. Many jurisdictions have moved from 6 months to a year or longer as a delay period. This longer time is meant to encourage owners to renovate and possibly expand historic homes rather than demolish them all together. Currently in Edgartown the Demo. delay period is very short (3-6 months) and there is no specific consideration of historic homes. In Newton the Delay ranges from 12-18 months and there is consideration to extend that time. The commission discussed the idea of proposing a longer time for this delay to the voters at Town Meeting. It was decided to continue the discussion at future meetings and gain information from other island towns as to their demo. delay period. Additionally, the HDC would like to hear from other Edgartown boards and/or commissions regarding this subject. It was noted that there is a current DRI provision that requires the proposed demolition of any Island home be referred to the MV Commission.

It was confirmed by the commission that the public hearing notices for the expansion hearings will be posted in the Gazette a total of 4 weeks. 2 weeks Prior to the meeting on July 14th and 2 weeks prior to the meeting on August 11th.

There will be an Executive Session at the end of the HDC meeting on 6.16.15. Town Council will update members regarding pending litigation.

It was noted that the refuse “fence” barrier at the side of the Alchemy Restaurant appears to be under repair as requested by the HDC

The issue of the ally at the 2nd Hand Store was discussed. Mr. Courtney has expressed that he is willing to build a “saloon door” style gate to provide a visual barrier for the refuse containers, cardboard and other items which may have been dropped off at the Store and left on the sidewalks. The problem of computer monitors and other items are both an eyesore and a trip hazard.

Edith Blake wondered what might be done to provide some tax break or incentive for homes in the Historic District. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of buying a home in a Historic District. Susan Catling pointed out that the homes and businesses in the Historic Edgartown are the focal point of our tourism and as such, the preservation of these homes is of great value to all the residents and businesses of Edgartown.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 5.19.15- Robbie Hutchison. 2nd, Edith Blake. Approved.

The meeting adjourned @ 4:52

Respectfully submitted:

Bricque Garber
Assistant

Approved: _____ 6.16.15
Carole Berger, Vice-chairman