

Local Historic District Study Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 6:30 PM
Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street

Lower level meeting room

Members present: Nancy Reed, Linda Voutour, Pat Stratis, Karen Favreau, Alex Pratt

Meeting called to order at: 6:35pm.

Review of Study Documents:

Nancy: Discussed paperwork sent out to property owners in 3 separate mailings over the summer and the 2 sets of neighborhood meetings. The first meeting was held after a May 2023 mailing had gone out which included a survey. Total of 35 properties in the 2 areas were directly mailed with letter, survey and information, including self-addressed stamped envelopes for return of the survey. 10 responses and one phone call were received back. Only one response was positive about being part of a district, others were either negative or did not know yet. In June, another round of letter went out to invite the 2 neighborhoods to a meeting for discussion of the topic. Neighborhood meetings were held, one for each area. 4 Property owners for each area showed up for the meetings and the comments were not positive on moving ahead. Concerns were: another level of 'bureaucracy' dealing with town, impact on property values and property improvement/reuse, and wanting to know the benefits of doing this for the property owner.

Another 35 property mailing went out in July 2023 with; a letter, a listing of benefits for property owners from online resources, bylaw point, another survey and return stamped envelopes. This resulted in about 10 replies with 3 more properties being in favor of joining a District. Lee and East Street properties who approved were not connected, one being on East st and the 2 others were separated by 2 properties. For the North District, the Battles home on North Street agreed, but they are already preserved with a deed restriction, so it is not really needed for their home. In the end, they were the only property in the North Area to agree to the District.

Discussion took place as to the viability of moving ahead with a bylaw, if there are not enough significant properties and no connected properties to form a District, especially in the Lee Street/ East Street area. Adopting a bylaw at Town meeting and forming a District Commission would hardly seem worth doing at this time, considering the impact to all involved. It was said that it is a shame that people in the town do not seem to treasure historic locations until it is too late.

Karen: Motion to Dissolve this LHDSC process due to lack of interest by property owners in having their properties included in an Historic District.

Pat: Seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously to accept the Motion.

Motion to adjourn made Linda, seconded by Alex at 6:49pm, unanimously accepted.