***Town of Scituate
Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2018***

 **1. Welcome and Call to Order**
Chairman Doug Smith called to order a regular meeting of the Scituate Historical Commission at 7:00 pm on August 16, 2018 at the Scituate Town Library. The following Commission members attended the meeting: Doug Smith, Stephen Litchfield, Aubrey Schwartz, Karen Desler, and Mike Cuneo. Arthur Beale had an excused absence.

**2. Demolition Review Applications**The hearing related to the demolition application for the house at **3 Driftway** was continued from the July 19 meeting of the Commission. Doug Smith summarized the contents of a 37-page information packet that was provided by the applicant/owners. The packet included, among other things, a structural analysis of the house, an opinion of the historic value by an architectural firm (a member of which was in attendance), and a personal statement from the applicants. Doug also provided a slide show from a site visit that showed the substantial modernization of the interior of the house.

Following the slide show, Mr. Bob Shepard spoke about the structure of the house and of his assessment that the house is substantially out of alignment and further commented on the structural and construction challenges that would make renovation cost prohibitive.

Mr. Lyle Nyberg spoke about the Form B that had been submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission that details the historic characteristics of the house and some of its important former occupants. Lyle also proposed some alternatives to demolition of the property. Mr. Ken Conway, in attendance for another item on the agenda, asked for clarification of Form Bs and whether the home owner had to agree to a Form B being filed, which Doug Smith answered.

Mr. Rob Hayes, one of the owner/applicants, spoke about his motivation for buying the home and their vision for the new home they plan to build post-demolition. Ms Maureen Hayes, the other owner-applicant, stated their willingness to have a plaque installed on the new house that indicates the history of the location and reiterated the family’s offer to pay $10,000 to anyone who wants to take and relocate the existing home.

Following all the discussion, commentary, and questions, a motion was made by Doug Smith that the property at 3 Driftway be considered preferably preserved and subject to a twelve month demolition delay. This motion was opened to discussion. Steve Litchfield proposed a counter-motion that the property at 3 Driftway be considered preferably preserved and subject to a three month demolition delay. This motion was seconded. Members of the Commission voted 4-1 in favor of the motion. The town’s building inspector will be notified accordingly.

A hearing was opened for the property at **67 Collier Road**. The owner/applicants, Ken and Carol Conway, were in attendance and Mr. Conway spoke about the property and the research he had conducted on it, with was augmented by information provided by Mr. Lyle Nyberg. According to the research, there was a house built on this property in 1909. The current house was described as a ranch style home on a brick and cinder block foundation with “1970s-era” wood paneling. Mr. Conway described his search of town tax records that show the tax assessment on the property doubling in value around 1920, implying to him that a new home was built at the address at that time. Mr. Nyberg said that he had found no pictures of the house from the time it was built and has no specific information on it. Mr. Alex Payne, in attendance, asked about the historical tax assessments on other homes in the area, which Mr. Conway responded to based on his review of the tax records.

It was agreed that a site visit would be planned. The hearing was continued.

A hearing was opened for the house at **59 Glades Road**. Mr. Edward Walsh, the applicant, and Mr. Bob Nelson, his attorney, attended the meeting. They provided an overview of the house and pictures of the existing state of the structure reflecting a significantly deteriorated condition. Commission members, the applicant, and his representative discussed the property’s velocity zone designation (AE) and whether or not this designation exempts it from the demolition by-law. Given some ambiguity and uncertainty, all agreed that the hearing would be continued while Doug Smith seeks clarification from town’s Building Inspector.

**3. Tercentenary Signs**No update.
 **4. Form Bs**Mr. Lyle Nyberg presented the Commission with a Form B for 14 Ocean Avenue. This structure, originally built as a chapel in 1894, is now a single-family home that was frequented during the summers by James Michael Curley. Commission members voted unanimously to accept the Form B.

**5. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

**6. Next Meeting**The next meeting of the Commission is planned for 7:00pm on Thursday, September 20 at the Scituate Town Library.