

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Historical Commission**  
**Town of Scituate**  
**January 31, 2019**

**Commission Members Present:** Arthur Beale, Aubrey Burke, Mike Cuneo, Karen Desler, Stephen Litchfield, and Doug Smith

**Commission Members Absent:** None

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Doug Smith called to order a regular meeting of the Scituate Historical Commission at 6:59 pm on January 31, 2019 at the Scituate Town Library.

A sizable number of members of the public were in attendance, as were people affiliated with the Gates/senior center/recreation center project.

**2. Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

**3. Gates Presentation**

Joel Bargmann of the architectural firm BH+A and Steve Kirby of Vertex (owner's project management) provided an overview of proposed plans for a senior center and recreation department facilities at the location of the former Gates School. Mr. Bargmann narrated a slide show depicting the various options that were considered for the site, along with the recommended design. The proposed plan involves demolition of the former school (except the gym) and new construction of a senior center substantially influenced in its design by the look of the central portion of the former school.

Discussion ensued about the timeline of the proposed project, as well as the timeline of the demolition review that would need to be undertaken given the age of the facility.

Members of the public in attendance were invited to pose questions or provide feedback. Wide-ranging comments were offered, with some in full support of the project as proposed while others advocated for rehabilitation of the former school.

As a next step in the process, Commission members asked for a guided site visit that would help in their consideration of the building's historical significance.

#### **4. Form B Review**

Mr. Lyle Nyberg presented the Commission with a Form B for 53 Gannett Road. This was originally known as the Edward J. Feeley house after its first owner who was the president of the Baystate Chemical Company. At the time of its construction its assessed value was among the highest in town. It was also rented for at least a couple of years by James Michael Curley.

Commission members unanimously approved submission of the Form B to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

#### **5. Historic CPC Submissions**

Doug Smith had previously circulated hard copies and on-line links to the Community Preservation Commissions proposals that were identified as having a historic element. Commission members approved proceeding with the submitted proposals.

#### **6. Tercentenary Signs**

There was no update on the status of the tercentenary sign project.

#### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Commission is planned for 7:00pm on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the Scituate Town Library.