***Town of Scituate
Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2018***

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Doug Smith called to order a regular meeting of the Scituate Historical Commission at 7:06 pm on June 21, 2018 at the Scituate Town Library.

The following Commission members attended the meeting: Doug Smith, Stephen Litchfield, Arthur Beale, and Mike Cuneo. Aubrey Schwartz and Karen Desler were absent. Lyle Nyberg and Bob Brand attended the meeting, as did a number of parties interested in, or affiliated with, the applications for demolition permit review on the agenda.

**2. Demolition Review Applications**Mr. Michael Hayes attended the meeting as the representative of the owner of the property at **189 Front Street**. Mr. Hayes stated that the owner, Mr. Robert Morrissey, would be unable to accommodate a visit of any Commission members to the property to assess its historical significance. Mr. Hayes also said that the property owner has no specific plans for the property and fully expects that a delay would be placed by the Commission on the demolition.

A motion was made by the Commission that the property at 189 Front Street be considered preferably preserved and subject to a twelve month demolition delay period beginning on June 21, 2018. The motion was seconded. Voting members of the Commission in attendance voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Doug Smith suggested that discussion of the property at **53 Border Street** be deferred until later in the meeting. Given Doug’s need to recuse himself from the discussion and vote on this property, the Commission was short of a quorum.

Mr. Don Gillespie, owner of the property at **44 Ocean Avenue** and his lawyer, Mr. Bill Ohrenberger, spoke about the plans to demolish the property at this address and rebuild. Mr. Gillespie said that the house has structural issues and has been renovated over the years such that, in his view, the house no longer has any historical architectural significance.

Mr. Michael Hayes, from the same law firm as Mr. Ohrenberger, posed questions to the Commission about its adherence with the review timeline stipulated in the Demolition Review By-Law. Chairman Doug Smith spoke to the obligations of the Commission as articulated in the By-Law. He also offered to suspend the hearing in order to consult with town counsel if the applicant preferred to pursue that approach. The applicant chose not to suspend the hearing.

Mr. Ohrenberger asked about what the Commission considers when making its determination of historical significance and what further information would be needed in order to make that determination. Doug Smith addressed the question, which led to contact details being exchanged with Arthur Beale in order to arrange a visit to the property. The hearing was continued.

The earlier deferral of discussion about **53 Border Street** did not succeed in allowing the Commission to reach a quorum. Nevertheless, the applicant, Steve Bjorklund, posed a number of questions to the Commission, related to the timeliness of the review of his application, which were addressed by Doug Smith. The hearing was continued until June 28 in order to achieve a quorum for considering the application.

**3. Meeting Minutes**The minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**4. Form Bs**Lyle Nyberg provided extensive overviews of two proposed Form B submissions, one for 6 Old Country Way and one for 111 Kent Street. Both were unanimously approved by the Commission. **5. Tercentenary Signs**There was no update on the status of the tercentenary signs.

**6. Gates School**Doug Smith provided Commission members with a copy of an overview of the history of Gates School and considerations of its historical significance.

**7.** **Adjournment**The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

**8. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Commission is planned for 7:00pm on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at the Scituate Town Library.