**SCITUATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Little Red Schoolhouse Meeting Room. Members present: Douglas Smith, chairman; Arthur Beale, vice-chairman; Steve Litchfield; and Reid Oslin. Members Michael Cuneo and Aubrey Burke were excused from attending.

Also attending the meeting were Cindy and Wayne Robbins, representing First Baptist Church, Scituate.

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the previous Commission meeting on December 17, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**3. Community Preservation Act Applications:**

Chairman Smith announced that the original application filed by the First Baptist Church had been reduced to $4,000 to be used for a study to get a sense of the expenditures that would be needed. The church is listed on the National Historic Register. Mr. and Mrs.. Robbins explained that the church will use the requested funds to hire a well-known local renovationist to consult on the proposed project, and it is hoped that renovations could be completed in conjunction with the upcoming 150th anniversary of the church in Scituate.

The Commission assessed the historical significance of the several project applications, and assigned the following scores to each project request (based on a scale of 1-20):

First Baptist Church (20/20)

Historical Society Archives Project (18/20)

Lighthouse Lantern Restoration (20/20)

Lawson Tank Feasibility Study (14/20)

Bailey-Ellis House Repairs (18/20)

Town of Scituate Archives (16/20)

**4. Demolition Review:**

The only outstanding Demolition Review application is for a structure at 50 Country Way. Commission members have agreed to visit and assess this property for historical significance.

**5. North Scituate Rail Canopy Project:**

Arthur Beale reported that the “finishing touches” – namely, gutters and downspouts – will be added to the structure soon, bringing an end to Phase I of the renovation project.

**6. Tercentenary Sign Restoration Project:**

The nine signs in town will be restored on an on-going basis. The project began in October, 2014, but has been delayed due to the high cost of the paint needed to properly coat the steel signs. The Third Cliff Neighborhood Association has sponsored restoration of the Third Cliff sign. Project chairman Arthur Beale said he hope to have this sign in place this spring.

**7. New Business:**

Chairman Doug Smith distributed information on the proposed construction of Positive Train Control (PTC) infrastructure towers along the MBTS’s Boston-Greenbush Commuter Rail Line. The 74-foot tall towers, which will enhance railroad safety, have been projected to be built at locations along Stockbridge Road; Station Street; Old Colony Way; Captain Pierce Road; and Henry Turner Bailey Road.

The Historical Commission has been asked to determine if the proposed towers will impact the town’s Historic District and/or historic locations.

Chairman Smith said that balloon height tests will be conducted to measure such impact.

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**8. Next Meeting:**

Commission members agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

**9 Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reid Oslin,

Commission Member