

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Minutes for Special Meeting – April 23, 2015

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy.

Absent: none

This special meeting was convened to discuss and vote on two demolition requests currently pending.

221 Old Grove St.

Commission members investigated possible funding sources to allow for a rehab of this property, but none were located. Grants from the State or Federal level for such rehabs are either for buildings that are open to the public, or for income property, neither of which is the case here. Bob had contacted the MA Historic Commission. Chris Skelly of the MHC stressed that the initiative to save properties of this kind must come from the *local* level: town organizations working in partnership with each other.

The Commission voted (5-0, with one abstention) to allow the demolition to proceed, with the provision that Mr. Hunter work with the materials salvage organization greengoat.org during the demolition process. (This non-profit organization salvages any usable building materials at no expense to the owner.)

The Commission also resolved to:

- Conduct an effort to catalog the historically significant houses in town.
- To continue to research the history and ownership of this particular house (Clark family)
- To work with the Building Commissioner to determine any future ways to prevent such a loss to the town.

150 Emmons St.

At our last meeting we had discussed the condition of the current structure, but did not have a letter from the building commissioner to make the demolition request official.

The Building Commissioner's letter was left in Debbie's office by mistake. Mary noted that the letter was needed to go on and wanted Debbie to go back to her office and retrieve it. The meeting was recessed and Debbie returned with the letter from Gus.

With the letter from the Building Commissioner in hand, the Commission voted 6-0 to allow the demolition to proceed.

Bob agreed to provide the Building Commissioner, and Debbie as Town Clerk, the appropriate letters of approval for the demolitions.