



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 13, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**141 KEYES RD., CONCORD, MA**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's office, the Town of Concord Historical Commission held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM using the Zoom meeting platform.

**Commission Members present:** Melissa Saalfield, Chair; Nancy Nelson; Alan Bogosian; Michael Capizzi

**Associate Members:** Francesca Cataldo; Nancy Fresella-Lee

**Staff:** Ann Clifford, Senior Planner

Ms. Saalfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM by a roll call vote.

**1) Historic Marker Application: "54 Lexington Road, Alan Pratt House, c. 1806"**

Ms. Elizabeth Stone and Jordan Gowan appeared before the Commission to apply for a historic house marker for their home on Lexington Road. Mr. Bogosian made a motion to accept the application for a historical marker at 54 Lexington Road, "Alan Pratt House, c. 1806". Ms. Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously in a roll call vote (4-0).

**2) Concord 2025 Community Participation Subcommittee:**

**Temporary markers for witness structures, 1775**

Ms. Holly Cratsley, Chair of the 2025 Community Participation Subcommittee, and Faye Allen, a member of the subcommittee, presented an idea to recognize "witness structures" in Concord with lawn signs that might showcase information about the pre-1775 sites. The idea of placing a flag above the door of the homes was also discussed. Ms. Allen noted that during the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Concord in 1875, the Town was beautifully decorated with bunting. She shared thoughts about hanging bunting and/or a witness flag at the properties. Ms. Cratsley stated that her subcommittee acknowledged that it might be a challenge to get homeowners to participate and that they might offer options. Ms. Nelson noted that improper installation of bunting could potentially damage the homes. The cost and funding source of the project was discussed. Ms. Cratsley raised the possibility of creating a map or pamphlet. With any of these efforts, the commissioners and presenters agreed that the consent and involvement of property owners would be essential. There were concerns about the complexity of implementing the idea, potential drawbacks, and coordinating efforts with surrounding communities. Ms. Saalfield recommended that they reach out to the Historic District Commission.

**3) Scenic Road Bylaw Application: 1134 Monument Street**

The Concord Historical Commission reviewed the Scenic Roads Bylaw Application submitted by AWMW, LLC/Bentley Building Corp. for a stone wall breach to provide access to a new single family dwelling and driveway at 1134 Monument Street. Mr. Mark White from Bentley Building Corp, LLC appeared before the Commission to discuss the application.

When the Historical Commission asked for clarification on the drawing submitted with the application which showed a 20-foot opening in the stone wall, the applicant noted that they are now proposing a 16-foot opening instead. The Commission was pleased that the applicant had reduced the proposed opening. They also expressed how they would prefer that the historic wall would remain intact, and asked whether other access options have been explored. The applicant explained that there was no other available option, since they no longer own property to the right or left. He also noted that their engineers have verified that the stone wall is on their private property, not the Town right of way.

A commissioner asked about the proposed character of the wall after it is shored up. As an example of a successful solution to an unavoidable historic wall breach, she described a treatment along the Battle Road where removed stones were reused to create “wing walls” running perpendicular to the breached wall in order to suggest their former location. In the days following the meeting, the applicant followed up with this commissioner and they decided together that such an approach would not be appropriate at this location.

The commission showed the applicant a negative example of a wide wall breach on Pope Road where unacceptable piles of stones were left near the street.

A commissioner asked about replacement species for the oak that would be removed. The applicant had not yet made a decision on the species with their landscape architect, but noted that they would comply with the tree bylaw by replicating 6 inches of tree. If they were to install another oak, it would be farther away from the stone wall.

#### **4) Section 106 Review: Minute Man National Historical Park, Great American Outdoors Act: Landscapes, Trails and Archaeology (two submissions)**

Ms. Saalfield introduced the next agenda item: a Section 106 review of the proposed rehabilitation of the landscape and trails, and archaeological work at the Minute Man National Historical Park. Concerns were raised about the changes that come with a change in use to market rate residential leases and conversion to employee housing. The Commission acknowledged that the National Park Service is the responsible party which ultimately sets the standards for this process.

#### **5) Concord Historical Marker Survey Nancy Fresella-Lee**

Ms. Fresella-Lee presented an update on her work to survey/inventory historical monuments, markers, and memorials in Concord. She also spoke to problematic markers and the need for community engagement and further research regarding this topic before a recommended action

can be provided to the Select Board. Ms. Saalfield recommended holding a public forum or meeting to discuss the appropriateness of certain markers, gathering input from the community, scholars, and Native Americans.

## **6) Other Business**

Ms. Saalfield informed the Commission that the date for the Preservation awards had been changed to May 25, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Goodwin Forum at the Concord Public Library and requested that the Commission schedule a Special Meeting to vote on recommendations once the list had been finalized (potentially May 11, 2023).

Ms. Saalfield asked for a volunteer from the Commission to participate at the Chairs' Breakfast. Ms. Nelson expressed that she would attend.

Ms. Saalfield informed the Commission that she had a meeting with the Library Director and town archivist about relaunching the Oral History Program. Takeaways from their meeting included:

- The oral history program is property of the Town and will be transferred to the Town archivist's website.
- A procedure for the program will be prepared for its relaunch.
- Appropriate people will be interviewed for the 250th celebration.
- There is a comprehensive list of the oral histories currently available on the website.
- The depth and breadth of recorded histories need to be improved.
- There will be an oral history interviewee form posted on the library's website.

## **7) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next Historical Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023.

- **Meeting recording:** <https://youtu.be/ub-iDXZzqFs>
- **Meeting Agenda:** <https://www.concordma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/04132023-10649>

Minutes approved, August 10, 2023.