

**Billerica Historical Commission
February 26, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Michele DeParasis, Matt Hrono, Alec Ingraham, and Mary Leach
Members Absent: Travis Brown and Dan Prager

The Zoom webinar meeting was called to order by Chair, Alec Ingraham, at 7:05 P.M.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the September 11, 2023, meeting were read and approved.
2. Planning and Survey Grant: The members of the Commission discussed their impressions of the February 5, 2024, joint meeting with the Billerica Historic Districts Commission and planning and survey consultant, Wendy Fronterio. Overall reaction to Wendy's presentation was positive, and the Commission members eagerly await the next step in the process.
3. Talbot Mill Dam Mitigation: On March 19, 2024, Eric Hutchins of NOAA and Jill Griffiths of Gomez and Sullivan, have invited the Commission to the required Section 106 online meeting. If the dam is removed, the purpose of the March meeting is to discuss what mitigation efforts might be undertaken to assuage the historical impact engendered by the dam removal. Mary felt the Middlesex Canal Association was most affected by the proposed dam removal and she felt the Commission should make an effort to support that organization's viewpoints. Matt mentioned that he could understand both positions. He indicated that there was benefit to the fish population should the dam be removed but also hoped that some of the remnants of the dam could be salvaged for display at the MCA Museum. Michele thought the objectives of the fish migration project, which is the main reason for removing the dam, were not well articulated. The success of the entire fish migration was reliant on additional significant factors external to the dam removal.
4. Local Inventory: Alec has completed the historical narrative for properties at 56 Dudley Road and 49 Pollard Street. Mary will take some pictures of the properties. In order to complete the form an architectural narrative must be completed as required by MHC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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