CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Gloucester Historical Commission

MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2026, at 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Rose Baker Senior Center, 2nd floor conference room
6 Manuel F. Lewis Street, Gloucester, MA 01930

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: https://gloucester-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/88989069462 WEB ID: 889 8906 9462

IN ATTENDANCE
Susan Morreale, Maggie Debbie, Bob Whitmarsh, Ralph Pisaturo (Zoom), Tim Quinn

ADMINISTRATION

- Approval of August 31, 2026 Meeting Minutes
  - Maggie will work with Alex Koppelman to modify the current CPC application historic criteria
  - We will change "Marketing" to "Meeting" on the 8.31.2026 minutes
  - Bob makes a motion to approve, Maggie seconds the motion, all in favor
- Website Changes:
  - IT replaced the online application link to the current link.
  - Ralph will run a report to make sure all the links on our website are working correctly.

DEMOLITION DELAY ORDINANCE

- Need/create description for website (see Mendon Demo Delay bylaw)
  - Susan will create a description of demo delay for our website similar to the town of Mendon, and will work with IT to get this updated
- Tim – creating list of historical contractors, to be posted to Google Docs under Demo-delay
  - Will check in at the next meeting
- Susan sent Rob Vicari an updated demo delay list based on new, ongoing research by Julie
- 1 Wonson Street: Halcott Grant purchased Sailor Stan's this year, wants to keep the building as is but renovated, but is running into some issues with the flood zone and building department
  - Susan provided him with 12 Wonson Street information, who received an exclusion for historic buildings to renovate
  - 9/28/2026: Site visit with Julie, Maggie, Susan; met Hal and discussed historic exclusion
  - We will vote on the historic significance of the property in case this is needed in the future.
  - Bob makes a motion, Maggie seconds, all in favor of creating a letter of historic significance for the owner of 1 Wonson Street.

HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUES (Susan)

- Applications voted for 8/31/26, *plaque orders may be underway*:
  - 5 Wiley St (East Gloucester Yacht Club, 1901-1918)
  - 28 Friend St (Eben Brown, Master Mariner, R1851)
  - 11 Pirates Lane/ NSAA (Est. 1922)
    - Looking for a second plaque to commemorate the original use of the building in addition to its current use, which is "original site of Samuel Wonson Wharf Building, sail loft, marine storage, workshop, built c. 1885"
    - Tim suggests that the plaques hang side by side to minimize confusion about the building's origins.
    - Bob makes a motion to approve, Maggie seconds, all in favor of the language around the second plaque.
  - 34-36 Summer St (Unitarian Parsonage, 1917-1939)
    - Julie will reach out to let them know that their plaque has been approved 8/31
  - 1206 Washington St (Moses Parsons, Yeoman,1834)
  - 9 Hickory Street: new applicant, claims the house is 1866

- Possible new applicant up for a VOTE?: 150 Leonard St, Annisquam
    - The homeowner has been recently in touch to see if she could finish her application, but we have not heard from her as of this meeting.
- 9/3/26: Julie & Susan redesigned plaque application to remove homeowner from DIY research
    - Ralph revised website plaque application page to reflect new online and paper versions

2026 MACRIS UPDATES (Julie)

- Recent work/submissions
- Julie will make 1 Wonson Street a priority to get up on MACRIS this month.

TERCENTENARY MARKERS (Tim)

- QR code project, Tim to work with high school students on QR code for marker posts and affixing the signs to the posts.
- The program started recently, and Tim asked a physics teacher to help him identify a student that would be good for the project. He should have more to report on at the next meeting.

2027 PRESERVATION AWARDS (Bob and Ralph)

- Bob - report on current list of nominees
    - 118 Prospect Street: Exterior restoration
    - 225 Washington Street: Exterior restoration
    - 64 E. Main Street - Adaptive Reuse/1850 Bullfinch House
    - Albert Steg's "Views of Old Magnolia" postcard map
    - Going forward, members will email Bob to add nominees to the current list, which he will then report back on at the next meeting.
- Ralph – book at CAM? date? Time?
    - Ralph is still waiting to hear back from CAM about the two possible dates and will reach out to them again to confirm.
- Need to book 1623 Studios for filming once the date is confirmed.
- 9/8/26 RNAC volunteered to publicize call for nominees, and the event, in its newsletter, reach of 2,800.

CPC UPDATE (Maggie)

- Brief status of the 10 applicants requesting historic funding
    - Maggie reported on each of the presentations that the CPC have heard so far, half of the presentations were heard in September, half will be heard in October; vote will be in November.
- Susan created a requested letter of historical significance for Burnham Railways 9/1/26
- Report on whether a National Register Survey qualifies for CPC funding (Lanesville)
    - Maggie and Ralph will look into whether or not CPC funding could be used for the National Register Survey for Lanesville by reviewing old applications.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS (Susan/Julie)

- Central database for the city of all historic buildings
- *1900 and 1920 year of build was arbitrarily assigned, these are being newly researched + corrected*
    - Russell & Melissa Hobbs - 126 Lanesville houses built 1900 per city
    - Stephanie Buck – 3,230 Gloucester houses built before 1900 per city
        - Susan will resend the list of 6-10 houses on Rocky Neck that Julie will pass along to Stephanie given the recent Sailor Stan's discussion
- 9/10/26 Julie & Rich met to determine parameters of an Omeka database to house all research done on historic houses (https://omeka.org/)
    - Susan and Rich will work on creating categories, which will be run by Julie, which will then be used to create the database.

ROCKY NECK CULTURAL CENTER – Historic Art Trail (Susan)
https://www.rockyneckartcolony.org/historic-art-trail

- Online self-guided walking tour of 15 historic sites; provides in-depth history and photos of each site
- 9/8/26 RNAC volunteered to let GHC add additional historic sites to their website/tour
    - We could start with buildings on Rocky Neck with new historic plaques as we have the research
    - Many others: Marine Railways, Paint Factory, Giles Chapel, Salted Cod Building, The Rudder, etc.
    - This research can double as entries on our REGISTER of Historic Buildings
    - The Generous Gardener's Garden Tour will take place on Rocky Neck next year. Susan is working to see if the Historic Commission can be involved in a small way.

PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS APPLICANTS, Historic New England (Susan):

- Inquiry to Dylan Peacock at Historic New England: said our new Preservation Restriction designations (i.e. Riggs House) will appear on MACRIS through MHC, we don't have to follow-up on it
    a. Might take a few months, is the responsibility of MHC through Historic New England to update.
- No further info on the following two PR Applicants:
    1. **WILLIAM HASKELL HOUSE INQUIRY** First period, 1680, 11 Lincoln St; Susan had 8/27/26 conference call with owner Richard Samuelson, converting property to a family trust; applying for Preservation Restriction
    2. **TUCKER House -HAYDEN Cottage** First period, c1720; MACRIS GLO.443, 64R Eastern Point Blvd Pursuing a Preservation Easement with Historic New England; GHC notified by David Rosen (per 9/1/26 email to Susan) whose firm, LandVest will represent buyer/Grantor when it is sold. Circumstances of this particular easement went right through City Council and they did not need a letter from the Commission.
- Additionally, 92 Prospect Street, Sandy Ronan, the owner is inquiring about preservation protection for her house, which has a Year of Build: 1900 (City), 1730 (MACRIS). Susan will meet with her to discuss.

LANESVILLE/Lane's Cove NATIONAL REGISTRY DISTRICT APPLICATION (Ralph)

- Focus is on a smaller area of Lanesville center, which includes Lane's Cove, the Fish Shack, cemetery and a few smaller buildings surrounding that area that are publicly owned; if privately owned, Ralph will speak with them directly.
    - 10 acres; fish shacks, seawall, cemetery would qualify for grants to repair them if NR was passed.
    - Ralph spoke to two homeowners, who would be affected by the NR designation and they approved
- Ralph ltr 8/20/26 to MHC seeking approval for nomination; Ben Haley/Nat Reg Dir-MHC replied 8/24/26
    - Ralph is seeking funding based on Wendy's estimate of $7,000 for smaller-area project; possible CPC funding

LANES COVE PLAQUE (Ralph)

- 8/31/26 Letter by Susan to Ralph stating historical significance
- Ralph + Russell Hobbs met with Mike Hale, who said DPW will pay for and install Lane's Cove plaque.
- Landscaping around the plaque might need some work, in addition to a compass rose installed near the plaque. Landscaping could be done themselves, or estimated at $2,000 to complete the work.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATUS (Susan)

- 9/5/26 + 9/11/26 Susan emailed Michael Steinitz, State Historic Preservation Officer inquiring about our 2023, 2024, 2025 annual reports in arrears
- We currently have status, but we are not sure how long they will honor our status without the completed past annual reports
- Susan met with a potential volunteer who may be interested in completing the overdue annual reports
- We voted in July of last year to not be part of the certified local government, but we need a letter from the mayor, which has to be approved by City Council, which then gets sent to the MHC to de-certify
- Susan will wait to hear from Michael regarding the format of the reports, and will get in touch with Polly at Historic Salem to see if they have example annual report forms they could send us.

Next Meeting: MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026
Rose Baker Senior Center, 2nd Floor conference room, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Bob makes a motion to adjourn, Maggie seconds, all in favor. The meeting ends at 7:48 pm.