

Uxbridge Historical District Commission
Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2019
7pm Lower Town Hall

Members Present: Jane Keegan, Michael Cove, Travis Ann Do Rosario, Christopher Delarda (Alternate)
Members Absent: Marion Baker, Faye McCloskey, Rachel Palin (Alternate), and Mary Patricia Wickstrom (Alternate)

Meeting is called to order at 7:00pm by Jane Keegan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting Minutes: Travis Ann Do Rosario made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting as written. Michael Cove seconded the motion. Approved 4 – 0
April 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes. No Action or Vote taken.

Uxbridge Historic District Commission Application:

Applicant contact information was added. Travis Ann Do Rosario will forward to June Bangma in the Building Dept. and Kelly Cote, Town Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

5 South Main Street – Certificate of Non-Applicability. Christopher DeLarda made the motion to accept the Certificate of Non-Applicability, Michael Cove Seconded the motion. Approved 4-0

47 South Main Street - Mr. Robert Johnson came before the committee to present the proposed changes to the exterior of his home. Motion to approve the project made by Michael Cove, Seconded by Travis Ann Do Rosario. Approved 4 – 0

Letter to District Homeowners with exclusions printed on the back. Second page will be Expansion Survey.

Experience Survey - Gather feedback from previous year petitioners to be mailed out.

Minor changes made. Michael Cove made the motion to approve the above mentioned letters. Christopher DeLarda seconded the motion. Approved 4 -0.

UHDC Website - Travis Ann Do Rosario will contact Town Clerk to update page and delete personal email links.

Letter to New Businesses – Motion to accept the letter as written was made by Travis Ann Do Rosario, seconded by Michael Cove. Approved 4-0.

Chairman's Recommendation to the BOS for Re-Appointments. Copy will be attached to June meeting minutes.


ADJOURNMENT:

Michael Cove made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Christopher DeLarda seconded the motion. Approved 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7pm in the Board of Selectman Room

Respectfully Submitted,
Travis Ann Do Rosario



Travis Ann Do Rosario
Jane D. Keegan

TO: Brian Butler, Chairman, Board of Selectmen CC: Office of the Town Manager
FROM: Jane F. Keegan, UHDC Chairman
RE: Re-appointments to the Uxbridge Historic District Commission
DATE: May 7, 2019

As of June 30th, terms expire for four of five (voting) appointees: Faye McCloskey, Travis Baker, Marion Baker and me. Moving forward, appointments need to be staggered to **support institutional knowledge** of past decisions about the historic district and surrounding streets. **Favorable action is recommended for those who actively promoted the mission** of the HD Bylaw to "protect and preserve... and encourage new..." and its unofficial theme to "*Protect the Past; Enhance the Future*".

Understanding we serve at BOS pleasure and choices are yours, reappointments are recommended for Faye McCloskey ('22); Travis Baker ('20); Jane Keegan ('22). If Ms. Baker is not reappointed, consider **elevating Christopher Delarda ('21)** to voting status. Although Mr. Delarda lives in a historic home but not in the district, my nod is for him because his membership already 'adds value' to the group based on redesign of the UHDC application form and knowledge of the preservation/construction field.

If the recommendations have BOS approval, optimal 2-2-1 term alignment is restored.
Voting Status: Travis (Baker) DoRosario. ('20); Chris Delarda ('21), Michael Cove ('21), Faye McCloskey ('22) and Jane Keegan ('22)
Alternate Status: Mary Pat Wickstrom ('21), Rachel Palin ('21), Potential open seat

The following details my one negative assessment starting with Ms. Baker's public disavowals of the basic UHDC premise. Consider that this opinion alone should signal her continued service is problematic at best. Add these facts: two years of UHDC public and private 'cautions' about language, most would deem **unbecoming and unacceptable**, had no effect; and two District Court restraining orders were issued as a result of her regular social media posts showing slanderous verbiage and harassment of one or more UHDC colleagues (by name). Then information and opinions promulgated were untethered to fact or reality, and a letter to the BOS last summer required an official rebuttal. While unanimity should never be a prerequisite for participation on any committee, the sum of these behaviors, by any 'representative' that reflects poorly on Uxbridge and spreads negative impressions, is reason for concern by all.

Depending on the BOS choice, **a seat may be open to post for one voting or one alternate member.** When elected as chair last August, UHDC members were asked to pledge to work more 'collegially and collaboratively', and other boards were invited to join in decision-making methods that have proven, where implemented, to produce stronger, long-term results. It is hoped this memo is read in the spirit in which written... to continue that effort.

Regardless of your decision, collegiality and collaboration remain my aim, and consideration of the merits of my recommendations is appreciated.

TO: Brian Butler, BOS Chairman
FROM: Jane F. Keegan, UHDC Chairman
RE: Comments to UHDC as follow-up to BOS memo of 5/7/19 (Reappointments)
DATE: June 17, 2019

Through a snafu in re-appointment dates, terms for four of five voting members are ending June 30th. Member-continuity carries 'institutional knowledge' that enhances the decision-making process. Acting in my capacity as UHDC chairman, the BOS has received recommendations based on my observations over the past several years. As such, this report requires no prior Commission approval and is not debatable. When filed, this commentary and memo to BOS of May 7 will be attached to meeting minutes.

My assessment report combined several factors: 1) how well a member worked to fulfill the Mission of the historic district to "preserve and protect (old) and enhance (new)" as outlined in the Bylaw; 2) what positive contributions a member made to the workings of the Commission itself; 3) how well a member's behavior reflected on the individual, on this Commission, and on the Town as a whole; 4) what degree of 'professionalism' by a member was observed by residents and those beyond our borders at meetings and on social media. Each Commissioner was measured equally against these objective, quantifiable factors which provided the foundation for my memo to BOS.

To my mind, whatever is spoken publicly or written online should equate with a high level of professionalism, decorum and civility, even in the face of disagreement, as befits a Town appointee and furthermore shows respect for individuals, their reputations, and always shines a positive spotlight on the Town. Therefore, recommendations for re-appointments are as follows: Faye McCloskey (2022), Travis Baker DoRosario (2020), and me (2022) which, with BOS approval, returns the UHDC to an optimal 2-2-1 appointment schedule. A negative recommendation is recorded for the 4th person.

The BOS makes UHDC appointments so if anyone chooses to attend, Selectmen will decide on June 24th. Thank you....

CC: Peter Hechenbleikner, ITM; Ellen Welch, AA