

1 *Brookline Preservation Commission*
2 **MINUTES OF THE March 10, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
3 **25 Cottage Sign writing committee**
4 **Held Virtually using Zoom Online Software**
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7 **Commissioners Present:**

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9 Elton Elperin, Chair
10 David Jack
11 Elizabeth Armstrong
12

13 **Staff:** Tina McCarthy

14 **Public:** Ashley Clark, Dennis Dewitt, Jeff Birnbaum, Owen Schwartz, Eric Hyett, Scott
15 Gladstone; Wendy Macmuller
16

17
18 Mr. Elperin called the meeting to order at 3:01.
19

20 Ms. McCarthy asked commissioners for an update on the work from the last meeting.

21 Mr. Jack explained that he had studied historic signs in Brookline & surrounding areas,
22 obtained maps from Brookline transportation dept. (Photos of the signs were shared) Reached
23 out to Ken Liss re. signage installed in 2005 for b-day. 12 signs, based on Bostonian Society.
24 Steel or aluminum. Invited Greer to participate, she indicated that she was interested in the
25 process.

26 DD-could be enameled steel that is long lasting.

27 DJ- obtained maps from the Transportation Dept., will forward. Maps will be helpful for siting
28 signs. The sidewalk switches sides of the street on Warren; Cottage does not have sidewalks at
29 all. No markings on road for pedestrian parking. No pull off on Cottage or Warren, no
30 shoulder on Cottage.

31 DD-there use to be a wooden sidewalk on Warren due to early maps. Perhaps there is still
32 room?

33 EE- Reservoir Park Sign is a durable material, ability to fit quite a bit of text. Enameled steel
34 seems like a good fit.

35 Scott Gladstone- P16, TMM. Don't worry about access. @ Intersection of Cottage & Perkins,
36 there is a trust owned field that has public signage. No real access. Suggests putting it at the
37 nearby traffic island, steel post with large sign. Need QR code that you can grab from a car
38 window. Don't really want to encourage pedestrians.

39 TM shares google earth of street scape.

40 Ashley Clark talks about the Sargent Estates sign recently erected as mitigation. Do not want
41 people pulling into driveway.

42 EA- creating a safe space for the sign needs to be part of the mitigation plan.

43 EE- we have not even begun to talk about content.

44 DJ we need to talk about slavery & O/R creative collaboration. Should there be 2 signs?

45 EA- Could Fairstead host this sign? Wayfinding in the LHD.

46 EE- there needs to be a marker at the house.

47 EA- perhaps the specific slavery info could still be at the house.
48 AC-likes the Fairsted idea, QRs could be obtained in advance of driving to the site.
49 DD-Could you link a map of the Perkins land holdings.
50 DD- could fairstead host the webpage as well? NPS??
51 EA- we need to approach Fairstead. Asks TMMS how they feel about discussion.
52 Eric Hyett- agree with everything said about safety. Sign needs to be at property, but love the
53 idea of a larger interpretive plan.
54 EA- how much content needs to be at site?
55 Scott Gladstone- the site is not safe, for anyone. Making it safe is not in our power. Agree
56 with direction. Marker should direct to Fairstead for more info. QR codes are magic. Small
57 amount of space at the site, just direct to Fairsted, perhaps with the QR code.
58 EA- think putting the QR on sign is not safe.
59 SG-make it large enough to be seen by the car.
60 EH- it is not safe to stop or photo or look anything up as driving by. Town owned triangle
61 could host the sign if Fairstead is not an option.
62 EA- Concern at TM for the connection to slavery in the past, with 25 Cottage. Will people be
63 disappointed if most of the things are on a website. If there is no mention of slavery at the site
64 will that be a problem?
65 SG- You are right it really should be mentioned briefly.
66 AC- websites give a lot of access to information, reaches more people.
67 Next Meeting-
68 Worth exploring Fairstead helping with a sign program. DD- suggests Wendy Machmuller,
69 Lauren & Arelyn- will contact.
70 DJ- can we meet in two weeks?
71 SG- submit a small progress report to the combined reports for TM- list of meetings and items
72 in progress. EA & TM will work on.
73
74 Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.