

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2021- 9:00 AM VIA Virtual Conferencing

*In accordance with An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as enacted to read: Sec. G-1 1 MRSA §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19*

- 1) **Call Meeting to Order-** Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 9:02am and determined that there is a quorum.
- 2) **Roll Call:** Commission members- Dennis Doiron, Robert Abbey, Robert Lash, Janet Slade, Chair Geri Doyle. City Staff- Kris McNeill Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Douglass Director of Public Works, Daniel Robideau Forman Buildings and Grounds, Angelia Christopher Planning and Development Assistant. Dorothy Washburne. Absent Brian Coombs and Clare Marron,
- 3) **Review of meeting minutes from 02/16/2021** Chair Doyle asks if there are any corrections- No. She asks for a motion- Janet Slade makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Robert Lash Seconds the motion. No further discussion. Roll Call vote: Dennis Doiron- yes, Robert Abbey-yes, Robert Lash-yes, Janet Slade- yes, Geri Doyle- yes, Kris McNeill-yes, all in favor. Approved.
- 4) **Discuss moving the swing set to a different location in the Gardiner Common, to enable the restoration of a historic path.** Dorothy Washburne brought it to the Commissions attention that the swing set that is in the Common should be moved to another area of the park because it is in the middle of a historic path. Buildings and Grounds will be moving the swing set. Jerry Douglass states that it will not be a problem to move the swings. Once a spot has been chosen, Buildings and Grounds crew will take care of it. Dorothy states that when they put in the new playground equipment, there was an old maple in the spot where the swings should have gone. That tree is now gone, so the swings could get moved there. Dennis Doiron feels the swings should be near the other playground equipment. Robert Lash asked why we are trying to restore this path. Robert Abbey states that it would be best to restore the path. If the Commission believes that this park is worthy of federal protection under the Historic Register, then it would be good to restore one of the most prominent paths in the park. Robert Lash states that he is concerned about the cost to the City for this move. Jerry Douglass assured that the



cost will be minimal, involving some concrete work, and woodchips to lay down after the move. The plan is to move the swings to an area by the other swing set. Dan Robideau states that the swings will be taken apart, moved to the new location and concrete will be poured. After the swings are set in place, wood chips need to be laid down. There needs to be 16' on the front and back sides of the swing set and 6' on the sides. The work should only take a day, maybe two. Dorothy Washburne feels that the current placement of the swings is awkward. Having the swing set in the middle of an established path, where there are benches. Dennis Doiron feels that it is important to restore path, and visually more pleasing. Robert Abbey states that the paths get used by walkers, frequently.

The Commission decides to have City staff mark the area in the park, where they feel the swings should go. Commission members can then go and see where the placement will be. City staff will inform HPC members know when BG have marked out the area.

Dan Robideau reports that they will be opening up the rails, and restoring the path to the crosswalk on Brunswick Ave. as well.

Chair Doyle asks if members if they are willing to table this application until April, after they have had a chance to see where the swings will be moved. All Commission members are in agreement to table this.

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### **Discuss/Review nomination for The Common- 'Brunswick Square' to the National Register of Historic Places.**

#### **HPC is being asked to review these 3 areas:**

- 1 Applicability of National Register criteria – does the commission agree with the criteria as part of the registration form?
2. How the nomination of this property contributes to local preservation efforts; i.e., educational programs, planning, economic development, protection, etc.
3. A summary of public comment about the draft registration form and/or the project itself. Should anything be edited?

Robert Abbey presented the information on this. He tells Commission members that this request, was originally meant for the fountain that is in the park. Due to the rehabilitation of the fountain, years ago, it is not eligible for the National Historic Register. The idea of having the park on the register, is to protect it from future work that could be detrimental to its intended use. All Commission members agree on the criteria identified for this registration. Chair Doyle states that she and Robert Abbey will be writing a report to include with the request. Historic Preservation has agreed that the Common meets the criteria to be added to the National Register. The Gardiner Common, 'Brunswick Square' is the oldest public square in Maine. Robert Hallowell Gardiner gifted this land to the city and there was criteria set in place that the City had to meet in order to maintain ownership. Robert Abbey, this square is considered a cultural landscape, a vernacular landscape. It is important to protect and maintain such a historically important property.

Chair Doyle asked for a motion to support this nomination. Dennis Doiron moves that Gardiner HPC support the nomination made by the Maine HPC to have the Gardiner Common registered with the National Register of Historic Places. Janet Slade seconded the motion. Roll call vote Dennis Doiron-



yes, Robert Abbey-yes, Robert Lash-yes, Janet Slade- yes, Geri Doyle- yes, Kris McNeill-yes, all in favor. Approved.

The deadline for the report and application to be submitted is 4/23/2021. Chair Doyle states that the draft will be circulated to members for input.

- 5) **Adjourn:** Chair Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn. Dennis Doiron motions to adjourn, Robert Abbey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote - Dennis Doiron- yes, Robert Abbey-yes, Robert Lash-yes, Janet Slade-yes, Chair Geri Doyle-yes, Kris McNeill-yes. All in favor Adjourn at 9:45am

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