

**NEWTON HIGHLANDS LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
WORKING GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

May 9, 2016

Those Present were:

Rodney Barker, Bob Burke, Gretchen Schuler, Mildred Hutchinson, Carol McPherson, John Rice, Bill Roesner, Barbara Smiley, Amy Wayne, Brian Yates.

Chairman Barker called the meeting to order at 10:35. Several items were discussed.

Our fundraiser at the Congregational Church on Sunday, April 3rd was very successful. About 50 people attended, most from within the proposed Local Historic District. Srdj's presentation on Historic Newton Homes was very well received.

So far, we have raised about \$2,800 from the fundraiser and John expects that more will arrive in the coming weeks.

The proposed map was discussed in detail at the fundraiser. There was general agreement that we had the right areas and streets, but some questions about the shape of the district and why a few of the streets on the fringes were included or excluded. Bob and Rodney responded that:

1. The City's Planning Department had told us to limit the number of houses in the proposed district to around 230 because they lacked staff to handle anything larger

2. This map is just a “proposal”, and we welcome all comments and suggestions for changes. This map will remain open until we know that it has broad support within the proposed district.

3. We stretched a few areas along Hyde Street to include two houses that belonged to former Mayor Hyde and we added two small enclaves near Woodward Street to include two historic gems, the Fogg estate and Benjamin Dickerman house.

4. We tried to stay away from streets or portions of streets on the fringes of the proposed district with a large number of undocumented houses that had little historic value.

Barbara Smiley reported that she was making progress updating the files on homes within the proposed LHD that were inventoried several decades ago. She also thought she could do some of the preliminary work on the homes that still had to be inventoried, so we could cut down on the amount we would need for consultants.

Gretchen thought this was fantastic. She said she would work with Barbara and Amy to expedite this. Gretchen also said she would help identify outstanding consultants who would be able and willing to do the highly technical requirements of the inventory process.

We also discussed several on-going and future projects.

1. We will have a booth at Village Day.

2. We will initiate a street by street organizing campaign to identify supporters on each street or block who can help us reach out to their neighbors about the benefits and responsibilities of being in an LHD.

3. We will seek guidance and support from community leaders and members of the four Local Historic District Commissions that oversee development with the LHD's in Newtonville, Newton Upper Falls, Auburndale and Chestnut Hill.

Bob Burke,
Secretary, Planning Subcommittee Working Group