Public Comment

Putnam Ave Historic Structure-25020-Barnstable

Submitted By: Jody A Coluccini
Town/Village: Barnstable/Cotuit
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via online form

Comment

October 8, 2025

TO: The Cape Cod Commission

In review of public information and history regarding the partial tear down and relocation of the Ebenezer Crocker house at 49 Putnam Avenue, Cotuit, one must acknowledge Cotuit's past dealings with similar issues. While committees in the 1990's were successful in historic home inventory and inclusion of homes in the National Register of Historic Places, the lack of consensus about creating a local historical district bound by rules, regulations and property restrictions has forced our dependency on the Barnstable Historic Commission in deciding the fate of our beloved historical buildings.

The Ebenezer Crocker house sits majestically on the hill overlooking Hooper's Landing, present day Rope's Beach, and is an historical and navigational landmark for anyone who is familiar with Cotuit and its waters. The house's significance within the community is well known and does not need further iteration. The greater issue for me is why properties like this are purchased with intent to tear down vs preserve and honor the legacy and tradition. While I commend owner, Joseph Popolo, for considering relocation of the house rather than full tear down such as what happened to the Cotuit Parsonage and the Hezekiah Coleman House, I question his reasons. Is it as rumored for extra "outdoor living space" or is to build a larger home to take advantage of the sprawling harbor view?

Moving the house to either another location on the property at 49 Putnam Ave or to 555 Main Street will diminish the home's historical status, take it off the National Register of Historic Places, and reframe its history and significance in Cotuit. While perhaps visible from 49 Putnam Ave with relocation, moving the home to the lot at 555 Main Street would encroach on another historical home which was on the June 17, 2025, Barnstable Historic Commission agenda, for consideration of foundation relocation and renovation. To place the Ebenezer Crock House on the same lot would most likely relegate it to a view of the town tennis courts, not where it would be easily seen for its significance and worth.

I ask for your recommendation to oppose the petition for relocation of the main house, and perhaps consider a compromise with allowance for renovation or removal of the ells or building of an addition to modernize the dwelling for today's living.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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PDF File submitted: No