

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, September 17, 2019, 1910 Building

Members Present: Chairman Bob Janes; Dot Cavanaugh; Jennifer Conway; Elisa Grammer.

Historic Inventory

Ms. Conway provided an update on Phase 2 of the Historic Sites Survey. The Spies team's inadvertent \$20 overage above the contract amount was resolved, the contract has gotten Massachusetts Historical Commission approval, and will be signed within the week. *The Commission will need to 1) hold a kickoff meeting with the consultants (Ms. Conway will organize dates) and 2) review the list of properties to be surveyed (Ms. Grammer will look on the internet to look for antique homes that are up for sale).*

Additionally, the Commission would like to see what if anything can be done about potential errors in the first survey. Three potential problem areas were identified: 1) the Haack home at 102 Main St (*Ms. Grammer will phone Barbara Haack to specify issues*); 2) the Gove home at 369 Main St (*Ms. Cavanaugh will phone to specify issues*); and 3) the Cavanaugh and Stuart homes at 6 & 8 Training Field Rd, where an outbuilding belonging to 8 Training Field Rd was attributed to 6 Training Field Rd.

Historic District National Register of Historic Places Listing

Ms. Conway stated that now that the contracting for the Phase 2 Survey is complete, she will resume working on establishing National Register listing for the three potential historic districts. The Commission also discussed the impossibility of establishing district(s) reflecting shoe or comb manufacturing because the sites are sprinkled all over West Newbury. In contrast, the proposed mansion district is a discrete location containing *homes—not manufacturing sites*—of major manufacturers of both shoes and combs.

As to errors on the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission MIMAP depiction of potential historic districts, Ms. Grammer reported her understanding that others with this kind of problem have found it difficult to fix. *The Commission determined to wait until completion of Phase 2, when more mapping will occur, to attempt to correct the MVPC map.*

Historic Markers

Ms. Grammer noted that QRs up on the historic markers on Main St and more will be installed.

Julian D. Steele

Ms. Grammer reported that Town Moderator KC Swallow is willing to be a mistress of ceremonies at an unveiling of a historic marker for Julian Steele. We have not heard how such an event would be paid for. *Ms. Grammer will attend any Finance Committee meeting concerning the proposed Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for a Steele marker.*

Quaker Cemetery

Ms. Grammer noted that the Town's ownership of the Quaker cemetery provides an opportunity to set up structures for Town maintenance of cemeteries. Perhaps in 2020 the Commission will have an opportunity to take this up. *Meanwhile, Ms. Grammer will try to reach out to an active member of the Amesbury Society of Friends.*

Carr Post

Mr. Janes reported that at their most recent meeting, the Selectmen indicated support trying to save the Carr Post building, with an article for CPA funding at the upcoming Town Meeting. It will cost around \$1.5 million to restore the building. CPA funding, bonding, and use of general funds are under consideration, including a bond to be repaid with CPA monies. Exactly what to do with the building is still in issue, and many ideas have been proposed.

Antique Chairs in Town Hall

Ms. Cavanaugh and Ms. Grammer reported that the Selectmen have declared the antique wooden chairs in Town Hall surplus and authorized their sale at \$25 per seat, first townspeople (one set per household) and then to all comers. *The Commission agreed to propose the first two Saturdays in November. Ms. Grammer and Ms. Cavanaugh will meet with DPW Director Amaral and Ms. Grammer & Ms. Cavanaugh will start of a list of things to plan for, including advertising, flow of people through the building, etc.*

Minutes

The Commission voted 4-0-0 to accept the minutes of August 19, as revised to record the presence of Town Counsel McCarron at the meeting's discussion of awarding the Phase 2 Historic Sites Survey contract.

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Meeting Documents

List of potential Phase 2 homes to be included in survey

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer