

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 3:01 pm, October 31, 2019, 1910 Building

Members Present: Chairman Bob Janes; Dot Cavanaugh; Jennifer Conway; Elisa Grammer. Also present, Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Administrator Jean Nelson.

Historic Inventory

Ms. Nelson stated that she has an invoice from our contractors for work on the Phase 2 inventory, which will be processed. Ms. Conway is working on this. Fieldwork on this phase should be done in early May and the project should be final by the end of June. The Commission agreed to provide the consultants with information to correct certain aspects of the Phase 1 survey.

Ms. Nelson also stressed the need to identify the source for money for the mapping. Ms. Nelson stated that deadlines for CPC funding will be tight leading up to Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Conway offered to check with Town Manager Angus Jennings to see if funding is already available under the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVP) contract.

Ms. Grammer pointed out that MVP's mapping the proposed Phase 1 historic districts did not match the consultants' recommendations. For example, the MVP Manufacturer's Row map includes a home across the street from the proposed district and the WNB historic numbers do not match the consultants'. In response to Ms. Nelson, Ms. Grammer said that she had not undertaken the effort to get MVP to fix their work. Ms. Nelson said that she would forward MVP contact information so that Ms. Grammer could assume responsibility for getting MVP to correct its errors.

Ms. Nelson also urged the Commission to be sure to credit CPC funding wherever possible.

Historic District

Ms. Conway reported her discussions with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), which needs to evaluate the three historic districts proposed for National Register listing. There could be a need to hire additional consultants to provide additional information. Ms. Conway explained that we will need to hold a meeting for affected property owners so that MHC (likely Ben Hayly) can describe what a listing would mean for them and their properties and for the Town. *The Commission unanimously voted to hold the necessary explanatory meeting for residents in the spring, the middle of the process, so that we can gauge the reaction before needing to consider whether to expend any additional funds on consultants.* Ms. Conway stated that she will get a letter out to MHC asking that we move forward.

Chairs

The Committee discussed plans for the sale on antique Town Hall chairs on November 2 and November 9.

Julian Steele

Chairman Janes agreed to move funding for the Julian Steele marker at Fall Town Meeting and Ms. Grammer gave a brief update that she has had no response from the Selectmen or Town Manager regarding planning for the unveiling.

Minutes

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer