

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, February 5, 1910 Building

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

Mr. Janes explained that through inadvertent error, this meeting had not been noticed. Ms. Grammer said that she remembered an instance of that occurring in a different committee and Town Counsel offered a means to cure. *Mr. Janes will consult with Town Counsel about this.*

Historic Inventory

Ms. Conway reported that our consultants have largely completed external examinations of the properties on the list for this round and are on track and on time. Next they will be undertaking historical research. A property on Merrill Street is currently presenting a confounding address problem—the mailbox and posted street number say #9, but the land and other records say it is #11.

Historic District

Ms. Conway said that the Massachusetts Historical Commission seems to be holding off on responding to our letter about potential historic districts on the National Register because the Historic Sites Survey is still underway. They seem to be wondering if a larger district could be established.

Historic Marker

Auto Accident—Cornelius Conway Felton Historic Marker

Mr. Janes said that a car crashed into the Cornelius Conway Felton marker, which has been removed. Mr. Janes will check with Ben Jenell at the Fire Department to determine the status of the marker and whether it needs replacement.

March Planning Luncheon for April 11 Julian Steele Event

Ms. Grammer reported that she has been in touch with the Steeles' daughter, Dr. Emilie Steele, who has agreed to come to West Newbury in March to help plan the April 11 event. Ms. Grammer proposed a luncheon meeting at her house with the Historical Commission members and other potentially interested invitees. *The Commission agreed to such a planning meeting (earlier in March would be better) and Ms. Grammer stated that she will develop a Doodle poll to identify the best date and will send out a draft agenda for the meeting.*

Funds, Budgeting

Ms. Conway reported that she has not yet heard back from Town Manager Angus Jennings about the Commission's request for a \$1000 budget this year and for clarification about treatment of expenses associated with the Julian Steele marker event on April 11.

Ms. Conway will pursue this matter with Mr. Jennings.

Annual Report

The Commission discussed the need to prepare an annual report for the Historical Commission, which would go into the Town Report. The Commission reviewed a draft of the Historical Commission submission and *voted 5-0-0 to accept the report. Ms. Grammer offered to provide a clean revised version for Chairman Janes to submit to Town Clerk Michael McCarron.*

Monthly stories

Ms. Grammer provided draft stories concerning the Emery Sisters (philanthropists) and John Appleton Brown (artist), and listed potential subjects for coming months. Frances Keegan Marquis' story will be posted in February. *The Commission voted unanimously to proceed with the Emery Sisters and Mr. Brown.*

Stone walls

Ms. Grammer noted that at the last meeting, the Commission raised the question of a possible project mapping the Town's stone walls. She stated that she has begun researching this topic and hopes to have information to share at the next meeting.

Minutes

The Commission voted 4-0-0 (Mr. Knežek, not present, abstaining) to approve the minutes of January 2, 2020, as revised.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting

February 19, 2020—if necessary based on Mr. Janes' discussion with Mr. McCarron

Meeting documents

- Draft Historical Commission submission for Annual Town Report
- Draft monthly stories concerning the Emery Sisters and John Appleton Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer