

## West Newbury

### Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

**Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, April 30, 2020 Via Remote Participation--GoToMeeting**

**Members Present Remotely:** Chairman Bob Janes; Jennifer Conway; Dot Cavanaugh; Elisa Grammer via GoToMeeting.

At the outset, Chairman Janes read the following statement: "Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the West Newbury Historical Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible."

#### **National Register Listing for 74 Main Street**

The Commission reviewed and made minor revisions to the draft letter to the homeowners and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) recommending 74 Main Street for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The homeowners had contacted Mr. Janes, indicating their interest in pursuing such a listing. *By unanimous roll call vote the Commission 1) recommended the listing for 74 Main Street and 2) determined that Mr. Janes should send the proposed letter to the homeowners (the Hogans) and to the MHC.*

#### **Historic Inventory**

Ms. Conway, who has been shepherding the process for the second Historic Sites Survey, reported that the third phase of this process is basically complete and we are a bit ahead of time. The draft survey Forms are in a DropBox file available to the Commission. *Ms. Conway will contact the Town clerk to determine how we can print out the voluminous hard copy document now that we are in lockdown because of the COVID 19 virus.*

Also, the process is underway to have the Merrimack Valley Planning Council do the mapping for this. Minor items such as a meeting with the MHC need to be completed. Our consultants have submitted an invoice for this phase.

*The Commission agreed that we should be sure to credit the use of Community Preservation Act funding in the final Historic Sites Survey document. It was agreed that we would have a roll-out with a Town email blast, letters to affected property owners, website announcements, newspaper and facebook notices, etc., as was done for the first Historic Sites Survey.*

Ms. Conway noted that a final step will be preparation of the wrap up grant report to the MHC. Then we may pursue the next phase of the Historic Survey for West Newbury.

#### **Historic Marker**

Auto Accident—Cornelius Conway Felton Historic Marker

Ms. Grammer reported that the Department of Public Works had done an excellent job of installing the replacement marker for Mr. Felton.

### Julian Steele Historic Marker

In response to Ms. Conway's inquiry, Ms. Grammer reported that the Steeles' daughter, Dr. Emilie Steele, is well and hopes to be able to travel to Maine this summer. *The Commission agreed that this could be an opportunity to hold the meeting about the unveiling of the new Julian Steele historic marker, the meeting planned for March and event planned for April having been canceled due to the COVID 19 virus shutdown.*

### **Finance and budget**

Ms. Grammer noted that she discovered by reading the Finance Committee minutes that the Town Manager reduced the Historical Commission budget from \$1,000 to \$600.

### **Report at Town Meeting**

Mr. Janes said that thanks to delays associated with the virus, Town Meeting will occur in early June—but details of how and when this will happen remain to be seen. *The Commission agreed that Mr. Janes will present a brief report at Town Meeting about Historical Commission activities in the past year, based on what the Commission put into the Town's Annual Report—but with an update saying that the Phase 2 Historic Sites Survey is nearing completion.*

### **Monthly stories**

Ms. Grammer provided draft stories concerning the Judge Addison Brown and Coach Elmer Burnham. *By unanimous roll call vote the Commission decided to proceed with the Judge Brown story for May and Elmer Burnham for June.* Ms. Cavanaugh suggested that the Monthly Tales of Our Town be made into a book that could be sold to help fund the Historical Commission.

*The Commission agreed that this is an idea worth pursuing. Ms. Grammer agreed to research 1) the Commission's legal authority to receive donations without having to turn monies over to the Town General Fund and 2) the cost of having such a book printed. Ms. Cavanaugh agreed to explore the possibility of a Cultural Council grant to support such a project.*

Chairman Janes noted that he received a letter from MHC suggesting development of the stories relating to properties in the Historic Sites Survey. Perhaps monthly stories like those we have been issuing could be developed for some of the properties. *The Commission generally supported this idea--Mr. Janes will share the letter with the other Historical Commission members.*

### **Minutes**

*By unanimous roll call vote the Commission approved the minutes of February 5, 2020.*

### **Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**Meeting documents**

--Draft letter from WN Historical Commission supporting inclusion of 74 Main St on the National Register of Historic Places

--Draft monthly stories concerning Judge Addison Brown and Coach Elmer Burnham

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer

DRAFT