

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, November 28, 2018, 1910 Building

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

Also Present: Former member Jeff Clewley

Historic Building Inventory

Mr. Janes provided for Commission review a near-final draft of the Completion Report for the Historic Building Inventory. Mr. Clewley, who had developed this report (which reviews requirements met for grant compliance), provided an overview and responded to questions. He pointed out that the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) expects to receive the report by December 1.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the draft Completion Report with the following changes: 1) the cover page will be revised to remove the “draft” description and 2) the checklist will be revised to reflect completion of all items listed.

The Commission generally agreed that

- *The final hard copy of the inventory should be kept in the G.A.R. Library, which has more extended hours than the Town offices and which currently holds the prior historic inventory—and large maps can be stored in the Town offices basement archives*
- *Ms. Grammer will put the inventory on the Historical Commission web page, will post an announcement with links to the West Newbury News & West Newbury People Facebook pages and will ask Mary Winglass, the Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant, to post a notice on the Town website*
- *Ms. Grammer will draft for Commission review a letter to each owner of an inventoried property, providing a copy of that property’s inventory and information about historic easements, plaques, National Register applications, etc.*

The Commission also discussed progress on seeking a MHC grant for a second phase of the Historic Sites Survey. With help from Community Preservation Committee Administrator Jean Nelson, Chairman Janes completed the initial step in this effort. The due date for the next submission is February 2019, and Ms. Conway offered to assist.

Historic Items Donations

Ms. Grammer observed that townspeople inspired by the Bicentennial have been offering historic documents and items to the Library, which does not have the resources to take such material. Mr. Janes added that thanks to a change of ownership of an old home in Town, many old documents

have also been provided to the Town. He also has a collection of Civil War and Civil War veterans' materials. *The Commission generally agreed that it would accept and review such items. Mr. Janes will talk with the Town librarian and Ms. Grammer offered to help with digitizing materials.*

Carr Post

The Commission reviewed a list of some potential uses of the Carr Post. Mr. Knezek added that the space could be used storage of the historic documents and items just discussed. Ms. Grammer suggested that the choice of use should correlate to what might receive grants or other funding. *Ms. Conway committed to undertake an examination of the funding leads provided at the last meeting and Mr. Janes stated that he would find out whether a dehumidifier had been installed to deal with mold in the basement.*

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Survey

The Commission reviewed a draft of Historical Commission matters submitted by Ms. Nelson. Among the suggested revisions were removal of a not-comprehensive listing of historic resources and of a renewed Demolition Bylaw, and addition of such notions as supporting Town cemeteries and consideration of historic preservation easements. *Ms. Conway will work on a revised document for consideration at the next Commission meeting.*

Cemeteries

Ms. Conway reported that her Daughters of the American Revolution group has been in touch with Reserve Officer Training Candidates at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and they want to do a cemetery clean up (brush clearing, etc) on April 27-28, 2019. Mr. Janes identified the Town's Quaker and Crane Neck Hill Cemeteries as likely candidates for this work. Mr. Janes also stated that the November meeting of the Cemetery Trustees had not yet occurred, and that he was working with Terry Hartford on this issue.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

Ms. Grammer reported that the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) contains a number of points specifically relating to the Historical Commission, including future steps such as a Demolition Delay Bylaw that some Commission members would not support. She promised to email the draft OSRP to Commission members for their review and discussion at the next meeting.

Minutes

The Commission voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Conway, not present, abstaining) to approve the minutes of October 17, 2018, with edits.

Historical Tour of Town

As an item for future consideration, Ms. Grammer suggested the idea of developing and putting on the Historical Commission webpage a self-guided tour of historical sites in Town, such as the Rocks

Village Bridge, the dam ruins on the Indian River, Ferry Landing, the Wharf at the end of Whetstone Lane, etc.

Next Meeting

December 19, 2018

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Meeting Documents

- Draft Completion Report for the Historic Building Inventory
- Proposed CPC review of Historical Commission matters
- Tentative list of Carr Post uses

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer