

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, December 3, 2021, First Floor Hearing Room, Town Offices

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

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Applications for Spring Town Meeting

Digitizing Annual Town Reports

The Commission voted unanimously to approve draft CPC eligibility and funding applications to complete digitization of Annual Town Reports. Ms. Grammer will forward the applications to the CPC administrator, Barbara Gard.

Adding Veteran Names from Recent Mid-East Wars to Training Field Monuments

Chair Janes said that he was going to inquire whether adding veteran names was eligible for CPA funding. He noted that this would not be an item for Spring Town Meeting: this is a longer term project and will require communications with the veterans inquiring if they are willing to have their names added.

CPA Plan Update Process & the Commission's Annual Report for FY 2021

Ms. Grammer noted that the Commission should develop a procedure to review and update the CPA Plan, which includes short-and long-term goals. Ms. Conway asked about the FY 2020 Annual Report, not having seen the document. Ms. Grammer said that she recently asked and that an incomplete version of the 2020 report was posted to the website shortly after her inquiry.

It was agreed that Ms. Grammer will send to Commission members the Historical Commission's prior 1) portion of the CPA Plan and 2) FY annual report. Ms. Grammer will also inquire when updated versions are due.

Monthly Stories

For 2022, Ms. Conway provided a draft story about Major Isaac Hills Boyd, and Ms. Grammer provided a story about George Young Bradley. *The Commission unanimously voted to use these stories, subject to further editing. Ms. Grammer will see if the Newburyport Library has an image of Major Boyd.*

Ms. Grammer said that possible additional topics could include Ben Perley Poore and Haydn Brown. Ms. Cavanaugh suggested the history of the Fire Department. Ms. Conway added that women should be included. Mr. Janes said that he was developing a list, and noted that Doris Pierce, who was a WAC associated with ferrying airplanes during WWII, was a potential candidate. *Mr. Janes will provide additional suggestions about potential candidates.*

Historic Sites Survey Update

Ms. Conway said that the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) will let potential Historic Sites Survey grant know applicants on December 15 whether they have been chosen to be allowed to apply for grants. She is using the prior grant application to work on an updated version that would serve as the application for Phase 3. *Ms. Conway said she will notify the Community Preservation*

Committee about the MHC result and that she hopes to have a draft grant application available before the Christmas holidays.

Other Items

December 6 Selectboard Meeting

Ms. Grammer noted that Monday's Selectboard meeting agenda includes the following items of interest to the Commission:

- Call for Committee reports for Annual Town Report
- Robert Belmont appointment—Historical Commission
- E. Consideration of proposal to remove (or remove and replace) two interpretive signs regarding Native Americans (at Indian Hill and Garden Street; and on Turkey Hill Road)

The agenda did not include other items about which the Commission had sought to meet with the Board, such as a location for the gift map and declaration of excess annual reports as surplus.

Mr. Janes said that he had not been notified about this (nor had other Commission members), *but would attend and would raise the question about a meeting concerning the other items.*

Powderhouse

Ms. Grammer reported that she had recently had a delightful email exchange with Dana Maglione, who lives on Main Street at the former intersection of Poorhouse Lane. Mr. Maglione provided some photos and information. *Ms. Grammer will share this with the Historical Commission.*

Wreaths for Veterans

Mr. Janes said that a potential project he has been considering involves a nationwide program about placing wreaths on veteran graves in December. Ms. Conway, who is president of the local D.A.R. chapter, said that the D.A.R. is involved with this [Wreaths Across America](#) program and that an initiative in West Newbury could be a chapter project. *Mr. Janes and Ms. Conway will work on this as a potential project for next year.*

Cemetery Commission

Mr. Janes said that as a future matter, the Commission might propose a Cemetery Commission to the Selectboard. He noted that the Town is responsible for two cemeteries: the Quaker Cemetery and the Almshouse Cemetery. Ms. Grammer noted that she, at least, had not looked in on the Quaker Cemetery this year and suggested that a program for monitoring Town cemeteries should be in place.

Mr. Janes also said that the current cemeteries in Town are 1) hard to access or phone if you need to bury someone and 2) full or filling up. Ms. Grammer noted that [Massachusetts law](#) requires that each town provide a place for burial of people dying within town limits.

The Commission generally agreed to pursue this concept.

Minutes

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021, as revised.

Adjournment

7:56 pm

Next Meeting

January 19, 2022

Meeting Documents

Draft monthly stories

Draft CPA applications

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer