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West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, January 19, 2022, remote via GoToMeeting

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

Historic Sites Survey
Ms. Conway provided an update about the status of the Phase 3 grant, noting that she has an appointment to meet with representatives of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) on January 20. She said that the forms are ready to go and she plans to discuss such items as expanding the final survey to include resources including cemeteries and bridges.

She was told that this is a competitive year, but MHC expressed interest in increasing the grant amount to $25K, which would mean that the Town would need to contribute another $2.5K. The Historical Commission could try to get this on the spring Town Meeting warrant, or, given the grant award announcement date of March and the July timing of a contract with the state, perhaps in the fall. The grant application can be sent in starting at the $20K level, and then can be amended with the increase to $25K.

Having reviewed Ms. Conway's draft submittals and heard her report, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize her to pursue this matter, finalizing the document and filing it in time for the February 7 mailing deadline.

CPC Application for Digitization Update
Ms. Grammer reported that the application to digitize the remaining Town Reports is on the Community Preservation Committee agenda for the following day and she will attend.

Monthly Minute Histories
The Commission agreed that we have Major Boyd's story for February, and Charles Carr for March. Ms. Conway has done a draft for WAC Doris Pierce, and Ms. Grammer is working on Civil War Surgeon Orin Warren, and Civil War Col. Eben Stanwood and his wife Mary Noyes Stanwood.

Ms. Grammer said that later in the year she will look into having the Historical Commission make a book of Minute Histories, to be provided in exchange for donations to the Commission. To do this, we should have a revolving fund in place.

Kade Dennis $47 for Almshouse Cemetery & Revolving Fund
Ms. Grammer and Ms. Cavanaugh attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kade Dennis, who helped clean up the Almshouse Cemetery. Mr. Dennis gave them $47 to be used to maintain the Cemetery. Ms. Conway will write a thank you note and Ms. Grammer will deliver the money to the Town, letting staff know that once budget season dies down, the Historical Commission will inquire about getting a revolving fund.

Historic Map Update

Ms. Grammer said that the Department of Public Works had retrieved the map from her house and is planning to install it in Town Offices.

Historic Markers Update

Ms. Grammer noted that it appears that the Indian-related Town markers have been removed. The Commission should reach out to those charged with making replacements before their due date.

Mr. Belmont said that this year is the 100th birthday of the West Newbury Veteran's Firemen's Association and he has been working with Fire Chief Mike Dwyer on the history and a celebration. He inquired about getting a historic marker about the fire department at the parking lot of St. Anne's church, which is where the fire department had been located. Commission members favored this proposal, noting that an important first step would be getting the property owner's permission. They also offered Commission support for the commemoration.

Other Business

Mr. Janes said that he has come across another old cemetery in Town, located on the former Mosely estate at Indian Hill. He is looking into it.

The Commission discussed the need to maintain the Town-owned cemeteries and the need of the Town to eventually address the need for more cemetery space, and to consider a Cemetery Commission.

Minutes

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021.

Adjournment
  8:00 pm

Next Meeting
February 16, 2022

Meeting Documents
Draft monthly stories
Draft Historic Survey Grant Submission

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer