

## West Newbury

### Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

**Meeting date & place:** 7:00 pm, February 23, 2022, via GoToMeeting and in person, Town Office Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Chairman Bob Janes; Dot Cavanaugh; Elisa Grammer. Also present, 38 Maple Street resident Brian Conn.

#### Updates on Historic Sites Survey

Ms. Grammer said that a work conflict prevented Commission member Jen Conway from attending the meeting, but that Ms. Conway had provided updates and comments to be used at this meeting. Ms. Conway said that our Historic Sites Survey Phase 3 application was delivered to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) office in time, and the MHC meets in the evening of 3/9 to determine the grantees. We should know by 3/10 or 11 if they email it out— often they put it in the mail, but Ms. Conway will be checking on it. She never heard back from the Town Manager about the Town meeting warrant for the additional \$2.5K Town funding to match the additional money the state is considering providing to the Commission. She will check with him on that status tomorrow if no one knows.

Ms. Conway said that we need to extend the list of properties for the survey to ideally 110. She believes we currently have about 80, and asked if there a listing somewhere of all of the properties that she can cross reference with the first two surveys and figure out if we are missing anything? This, she said, provides an opportunity to add structures like bridges, cemeteries, and perhaps the powderhouse. She asked the Commission members to consider additional resources for the list and to think of other people who might have advice. Mr. Janes noted that Phase 3 should include 220 Middle Street (which is set far back from the road).

*The Commission agreed that Mr. Janes and Ms. Cavanaugh will look for the list of houses older than 100 years old, which was developed in connection with the first Historic Sites Survey. Ms. Grammer will ask Ms. Conway to circulate the most recent list of properties proposed for Phase 3 and will provide a listing of the properties surveyed in Phases 1 & 2.*

#### Gift account vs revolving fund for Historical Commission

Ms. Grammer said that the Historical Commission has statutory authority to receive gifts and donations and has received funds (and Ms. Conway has sent Kade Dennis a thank you letter on behalf of the Commission for his \$47 gift), but without a special account, the money goes to the General Fund. She added that the Town Manager said that the Historical Commission can set up either a gift account, which can be approved by the Select Board, or a revolving fund, which requires a vote at Town Meeting. Ms. Grammer noted that there is no substantive difference. Ms. Conway said that the gift account looks like the easiest way to go.

*The Commission voted unanimously to seek a gift account, and Ms. Grammer will use the model for the Council on Aging Gift Account to prepare a draft for presentation to the Select Board. She will circulate the draft among the Commission members for consideration at the next meeting.*

### **Update about cemeteries**

Ms. Grammer said that she has heard that Newburyport wants to raise the dam at the Artichoke, which has the potential to inundate the Quaker Cemetery. She suggested that the Historical Commission be on the lookout for this and consider filing comments in the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review process.

### **Monthly stories**

*The Commission agreed that the stories about Charles Carr and Doris Pierce are ready for publication.* Ms. Grammer noted that she is in the middle of a story about Civil War surgeon Orin Warren and will be working on a story about Eben Stanwood, the highest-ranking West Newbury officer in the Civil War, and one about his wife, Mary Noyes Stanwood, based on her letters in the library. She wondered if Mr. Belmont would like to do a story about the veteran fire department.

### **Accept minutes**

*The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022.*

### **Other business**

Indian-related historic markers: Ms. Grammer noted that the group concerned about historic markers discussing native Americans was due to contact the Commission with recommendations about replacement markers by March 21, 2022. Ms. Hawkins, a member of that group, briefly reported to the Commission that the group had been working on its proposal and was just awaiting input from Indian advisors.

40 Maple St. addition: Brian Conn, of 38 Maple Street, noted his concern about a very large addition proposed for 40 Maple Street. He said that the square footage would be well more than comparable homes in the area and would detract the historic area. The Commission noted that the Maple Street area was under consideration for recommendation as an area on the Federal National Register of Historic Places—but this would not prevent a homeowner's addition or alteration to his or her house. National Register status provides prestige and some potential protection against disruptive projects requiring an environmental impact statement, such as a large roadway or pipeline proposed to be run through the area.

### **Adjournment**

7:34 pm

### **Next Meeting—3d Wednesday**

March 16, 2022

## **Meeting Documents**

Draft Monthly Minute Stories

Email re: gift fund vs revolving fund

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer