

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, January 10, 2019, 1910 Building

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

Others Present: Angus Jennings, Town Manager

Historic Inventory

Phase 1

The Commission reviewed a draft letter to be sent to owners of inventoried properties. The letter will include the Form B information pertaining to that homeowner's property and information about obtaining historic building plaques, National Register status, and historic preservation easements.

The Commission decided not to add to the letter information about a possible "If this house could talk" event in conjunction with the bicentennial celebrations. The Historical Society will be having an event touring old barns, and the Commission will review the "If this house could talk" concept at a later time, perhaps choosing certain historic areas, particularly where parking would be feasible.

Mr. Jennings supported the idea of a letter and said that Town copiers and printers could be made available for this. He noted that a send-out before the end of January would be best for budgeting reasons. Ms. Cavanaugh and Ms. Conway offered to help with collation and envelope stuffing.

The Commission unanimously approved send-out of the proposed letter, including use of Historical Commission budget funds for postage, with a revision to include at the end a sentence saying that any questions should be directed to Chairman Janes.

Ms. Conway noted that individual property owners pursue a National Register listing for their properties. *Ms. Conway agreed to investigate the question of what entity would sponsor (and how to do so if desired) National Historic Register listing for Historic Areas.*

Phase 2

Chairman Janes shared a preliminary draft of a grant application for phase 2 of the History Sites Survey. *The Commission agreed that it would be a good idea to find a copy of the prior grant submission and update that for use in the phase 2 version.*

Ms. Conway committed to contacting the phase 1 author, Amy Friend, and then try Jean Nelson. Another possible source would be the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This is due February 11, so the Commission agreed to provide comments to Ms. Conway by the end of the week.

The Commission concurred with Mr. Janes' proposal to submit this phase 2 proposal to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funding, as was done with phase 1.

Carr Post

Ms. Conway explained that she had been working with CPC Administrator Jean Nelson on potential grants for the Carr Post. They found a promising grant program with an application due date of March 22, 2019. This is not an annual opportunity.

It was noted that the Selectmen had agreed to Carr Post stabilization funding, but were unwilling to go further until uses for the property were identified. *The Commission generally agreed that it is important to take time to develop Town consensus about uses for the building before presenting any funding request to Town Meeting.*

Steps for developing such consensus include:

- Dot Cavanaugh's planned poster on Carr Post for a Library exhibit, which can include a poll to identify popular uses
- Posting Ms. Cavanaugh's Carr Post presentation on the website, with a Survey-Monkey type poll of the sort the Cultural Council used

The Commission agreed that this matter would be better for Fall Town Meeting, and that the Carr Post Committee will need to be heavily involved.

Merrimac Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) Mapping

Town Manager Jennings explained the Town's ongoing use of MVPC resources and provided an outline of the ability to link the phase 1 Historic Sites Survey inventory data for each property with the Assessors' Office data, greatly expanding the availability of historic survey data for homeowners, realtors, and others doing property research.

Ms. Grammer supported this idea, particularly if it could be expanded to include not only the historic survey buildings but also the Town's historical markers on [MIMAP](#), which offers different layers of information. Over time, additional historical spots could be added.

The Commission agreed that this proposal should proceed, with a target of Fall Town Meeting to seek funding.

Budget

The Commission agreed that level funding, continuing the existing budget request, makes sense. Mr. Jenkins noted that if he had not heard from the Commission, that would be his default.

Minutes

The Commission voted 4-0-0 (Jennifer, not present, abstaining) to approve the minutes of December 19, 2018.

Next meeting

January 24, 2019

Adjourn

8:40 p.m.

Meeting Documents

- Draft letter to Historic Sites Survey property owners
- Draft for phase 2 Historic Sites Survey grant
- Proposal for MVPC incorporation of Historic Sites Survey data

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer