

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7:00 pm, February 20, 2019, 1910 Building

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

Historic Inventory

Phase 1

Ms. Grammer noted that the website now has a Merrimack Valley Planning (MVP) map of the Phase 1 survey on the page about that Historic Sites Survey, which map Ms. Conway received from Mr. Clewley.

Phase 2

Mr. Janes noted that application for a grant for the Phase 2 Historic Sites Survey has been submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and that he added a paragraph noting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) has been requested and pending. As with Phase 1, the total cost would be \$25K for this survey phase, ideally with \$12.5K reimbursed through the state grant. *The Commission voted 5-0-0 to approve the application for CPA funding of Phase 2.* Mr. Janes will attend the Community Preservation Committee meeting on February 21 when the phase 2 survey funding will be taken up.

Historic Area National Register Listing

Ms. Conway explained that to pursue National Register Listing ([which is distinct from a Historic District under Massachusetts law and Town bylaws](#)) for the 3 historic areas identified in the Historic Sites Survey, the Historical Commission would first need to seek approval from the Board of Selectmen. Then an initial application, largely consisting of the Historic Sites Survey for the 3 areas, would be submitted to the MHC, which would do an initial review. If proposed areas passed initial MHC screening, additional information would need to be provided. The MHC would also send a notarized letter to affected property owners, notifying them of the proposed National Register Historic Area Listing. And the MHC would hold a public meeting in West Newbury to answer questions. Affected homeowners have an opportunity to object to listing and if a majority object, the listing would not go forward. The historic area may be shaped to exclude properties of owners who object.

The Commission voted 5-0-0 to pursue National Historic District Listing (as opposed to MA Historic District status) for the 3 areas identified in the Phase 1 Historic Sites Survey.

As to next steps, Ms. Conway will talk with the Selectmen's Administrator Mary Winglass about the best way to present this matter to the Selectmen. The Commission also discussed raising this issue with affected homeowners in a way that will provide welcoming information of the impacts, which

involve recognition but no limitations on remodeling or revisions to their structures. *The Commission generally endorsed the idea of a letter to the affected homeowners and an early meeting to avoid misinformation.*

Historic Markers

Ms. Grammer noted that she had taken the MVP map of West Newbury and put the names and locations of all the town historic markers on the map, which is on the Historical Commission website.

The Commission voted 5-0-0 to make the story of the First Parish Meetinghouse the monthly minute history for this month.

The Commission voted 5-0-0 to use remaining funds from this fiscal year to purchase a replacement marker for Jacob Bayley on Bailey's Lane. Ms. Grammer said that to help keep this marker from disappearing, she recommended making a frame with pressure treated 2 x 3's glued with Liquid Nails on the marker's back and then use long screws to toe in the frame to the post.

Minutes

The Commission voted 5-0-0 to approve minutes of January 24, 2019

Next meeting

March 20, 2019

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Meeting Documents

- Drafts of minute histories—tales of our town
- Proposal from Haverhill Sign Center to replace markers
- Finance Committee town meeting schedule

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer