

West Newbury

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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

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

Historic Inventory Phase 2

Chairman Janes shared a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) approving a Phase 2 Historic Sites Survey for the Town. He also shared a draft reply letter letting MHC know that we await the Town's vote in the upcoming meeting approving use of Community Preservation Act funds for our match. The Commission members suggested that Mr. Janes add to his letter a few sentences stating that 1) the Community Preservation Committee and the Finance Committee have voted unanimously in support of using CPC funds for the Phase 2 grant as proposed, and 2) the Phase 1 Survey has been positively received and we have no reason to anticipate opposition to the Phase 2 proposal. *Ms. Conway offered to work on the Request for Proposals, using the Phase 1 RFP as a basis for this draft.*

CPA Funding

The Commission discussed the recent determination to use CPC Historical funds for a ramp for the Library. Mr. Janes stated that he voted against this because there was no basis in bids or other evidence concerning the exact work to be performed and its cost. Ms. Grammer and Ms. Conway expressed concerns that the Historical Commission had not been consulted and priorities and potential future plans for use of CPC historical funds apparently were not considered.

The Committee also addressed the citizens' petition to reduce CPA funding. *The Committee voted 5-0-0 to support current CPA funding mechanisms at the current funding levels*

Historic Area National Register Listing

Ms. Conway provided the Commission a draft letter to be submitted to the Selectmen and Town Manager, proposing that the Commission seek National Register of Historic Places listing for the Way to the River, Training Field, and Manufacturers' Row Historic Areas. *The Commission voted unanimously to approve Ms. Conway's letter for distribution to the Selectmen and the Town Manager.*

Historic Markers

The Commission authorized the story of the Second Parish Meetinghouse as the monthly minute history for this month.

Ms. Grammer brought to the Commission meeting the new Jacob Bayley historical marker and noted that the Commission will be billed.

Carr Post

Mr. Janes reported that social media indicated interest in restoring Carr Post. He proposed holding a meeting with the public to try to develop consensus. The Commission generally thought that this would be best after annual Town Meeting in April. The Carr Post Committee and the Bicentennial Committee should be involved.

Julian D Steele Plaque

Ms. Grammer provided a timeline of the achievements of Julian D. Steele, who lived in West Newbury and was, among many other things, the first African American Town Meeting Moderator in Massachusetts. She proposed a plaque in his honor to be installed in February, which is Black History month. Also 2020 would be the 50th anniversary of his death at his home in West Newbury. This could be paid for with CPC funds assuming voter approval at the Fall Town Meeting. *The Commission viewed this proposal favorably and authorized Ms. Grammer to draft for review at the next meeting a letter suggesting this to the Selectmen and Town Manager.*

Minutes

The Commission voted 5-0-0 to approve minutes of February 20, 2019

Next meeting

April 17, 2019

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting Documents

- Letter from MA Historical Commission
- Draft letter to BOS & Town Manager re NHRP
- Information about Julian D. Steele

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer