

## **Wayland Historical Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

April 1, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

In the Large Hearing Room, Wayland Town Building, In Person and on Zoom

**Present:** Sherry Anne Bryant, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Katherine Gardner-Westcott, Brad Carver, Amanda Ciaccio

**Guest:** Brian Boggia, Wayland Housing Authority

K. Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

### **Cochituate School Solar Project**

Brian Boggia presented the Housing Authority's proposal to add a solar array to the roof of the Cochituate Village Apartments at 106 Main Street. The HA is working with Sunwealth which does solar arrays in this area. They have an array in Waltham where tenants participate in savings. They also considered Bent Park, but it is not a candidate because the roofs are over 20 years old. Cochituate Village Apartments has a smaller, newer roof that is flat on the Bradford Street side. Because it is an historic building, we spoke about the impact on the visual lines from the street, and how to preserve the historical nature of the building. The panels cannot be seen from the street, they are at a slight angle facing south. with an existing parapet that goes around it. This would be on the addition that the Housing Authority added in the 1980s, which is a membrane roof. It would likely not be enough to serve the whole building, but the HA hopes to expand in subsequent years.

**Motion:** Brad Carver moved and Ann Gordon seconded that we approve the project as described to add solar panels to the roof of the Cochituate Village Apartments at 106 Main St.

**VOTE:** 7-0 in favor.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment

**Review of Minutes:** MOTION: B. Carver and S.A. Bryant moved and seconded that we accept the minutes from March 4, 2024. **VOTE:** 7-0 in favor

### **Budget and Programming**

We have approximately \$1,000 in our budget. Possible expenses could be to bring historian Marian Pierre-Lewis to town for \$250 to do a presentation on how to date your house, any house from 1850 or newer. It would be \$350 if we record on Zoom. K. Gardner-Westcott has spoken with the Library about co-sponsoring, and they would share the cost. The speaker suggested May 23 or June 6. If it is recorded, it could be shown on WayCam.

We could also use a new computer in the Archaeology Lab. K Gardner-Westcott has asked Mike McCann in the Town's IT Department about purchasing a laptop through the town. She is waiting to hear details from him.

**Motion:** A. Gordon moved and B. Carver seconded that we plan to purchase a new laptop for the Archaeology Lab and also plan the program with the Library. **Vote** 7-0 in favor.

### **Dudley Woods Signage**

A. Gordon presented a draft of possible signage for Dudley Woods, and asked Commissioners to review it and get comments and thoughts to her. We will discuss it again at the next meeting. A. Ciaccio reviewed information and prices from sign manufacturers. We have \$1,896 for a sign at Castlegate, and \$2,500 for Dudley Woods.

A. Ciaccio will reach out to the graphic designer who designed the Natick signs to get an estimate.

Discussion of adding benches and signage on the Rail Trail and how that might be funded. Our state legislators are interested in knowing about possible projects that would benefit the community.

### **Letters Received**

K. Gardner-Westcott had shared with the Commission two letters she received.

The Mass Historical Commission has indicated there is concern about the area that Veritas is planning to build on.

The Mass Historical Commission felt that the St. Ann's site is already disturbed and does not require an archaeologist. PAL did take a soil sample from a feature at St. Ann's, but does not have a budget to analyze it. If we wanted it analyzed and dated, we would need to fund it. We are waiting for the report.

### **Cemeteries**

There was no update on the cemetery work, which is scheduled to begin in early May.

### **House Plaques**

One application is pending, and B. Carver is in touch with the homeowner about the details. He will ask for documentation for the office files.

## **Railroad and Rail Trail**

R. Conard reported that the Historic District Commission discussed the illumination of the train order signal. Steve Vitello had presented three possibilities: an electric light, a solar lamp, or no illumination. They had asked if a wire up the pole would meet with the approval of the HDC, and it was felt it would pass. The HDC voted to amend the certificate of appropriateness for the lamp.

Scott Sweeney has finished restoring the lamp, and the bracket has been finished.

On the previous Friday, David Graf installed more rods inside the Depot to connect to the control mechanism. Next will be installing hardware on the exterior, which will require a lift. Steve Vitello is retiring at the end of April, and is eager to wrap up this project before he leaves. R. Conard will notify the Commission when David Graf comes to install the final pieces.

The blades and the lenses will be the next project.

R. Conard is planning to hold a brush clearing the weekend of May 4. He met with Joe Doucette from the DPW, who said he can dispose of dirt from the railroad site during brush clearing and cleaning. Mariann Maloney at the Transfer Station can provide a container for brush, and will coordinate with Joe about a container for dirt. A. Gordon will help with publicity, including a new flyer.

Question about kiosk at Tower Hill site: R. Conard contacted Larry Kiernan, who said it was an Eagle Scout project. Our Commission did not know about it until it was installed.

R. Conard attended a reception on March 18 hosted by the Cultural Council for grantees. Another attendee commented how glad she was to hear about our work to preserve the railroad history, since her father used to take the train from Tower Hill.

## **Archaeology**

T. Largy reported that March 29 was the opportunity to go hear about planning for the South Landfill. A visioning committee is being formed to determine its future. There was a dump there that closed in the 1970s. Tom Holder invited T. Largy to join him for the Zoom meeting. She reports that ideas raised included housing, playing fields, nature scape, etc. T. Largy felt that some excavation would be worth doing, the artifacts would provide information about a specific period of time.

K. Gardner-Westcott reports that trees have been taken down and stumps ground; the Commission was not notified.

## **Reports from Other Boards**

S.A. Bryant watched a Select Board meeting where the predominant issues were zoning and Town Meeting.

T. Largy looked at the PMBC meeting on Feb. 27, regarding Stone's Bridge. Bids were expected to go out in late March. R. Conard reported on a voluntary pre-bid site visit at Stone's Bridge on April 9 at 10 a.m.

## **New Business**

K. Gardner-Westcott asked opinions about what how we might ask the house historian to research, if we proceed with the program on house history. She presented five possibilities. The Commission identified our top three for her to discuss with the house historian.

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 6, 6:30pm**

**Motion:** T. Largy and B. Carver moved and seconded to adjourn. **Vote:** 7-0 in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon