

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2017

Attendees: Members: Elisa Scola (Chair), Tonya Largy, John Dyer, Kay Westcott, Ann Gordon, Amanda Ciaccio, Rick Conard; Associate Member: Mike Lowery

Chair Elisa Scola called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the Veteran's Memorial adjacent to the Town Building to view the bench adjacent to the memorial to see if its design would be desirable as the type of bench to serve as a memorial for Paul Gardescu, formerly Chair of the Historical Commission and the long-time coordinator of the Wayland Archaeology Group. John presented information on different types of benches and prices. We walked around the outside perimeter of the Town Building to view possible sites for a bench. Other possible sites were also discussed, such as Dudley Woods/Rocky Point or Mill Pond. It was decided to table this subject for now.

We then reconvened at 7:55 pm in the Selectmen's meeting room in the Town Building.

1. There were no public comments.
2. North and South Cemetery Monument Conservation: Elisa and others from our Commission had met with the Board of Public Works. A change order to substitute work on additional monuments instead of cleaning some monuments has been completed. The Board of Public Works approved adding \$4,400 from the cemetery endowment fund to add to our contract with Monument Conservation Collaborative for conservation of additional monuments in South Cemetery that were not included in the original scope of work. A change order with MCC for this work is still underway. Mike Lowery provided an explanation of the endowment fund.
3. Railroad Site and Rail Trail: Rick said that at our volunteer brush clearing on May 6-7 we had a total of 10 volunteers in spite of some rain on Saturday. Brush was cleared from some existing tracks and from the site of the enginehouse, and we excavated dirt from the north side of the turntable pit. Containers were provided for brush and dirt by the Wayland Transfer Station. Thank you letters on WHC letterhead have been sent to the participants. The Conservation Commission held a continuation of the public hearing on the Eversource gravel transmission line access road and DCR rail trail on May 11. New plans and a revised NOI was filed. The plans identify many of the artifacts that we had asked VHB and Eversource to preserve, such as a milepost, whistleposts, ringposts, rail rest posts and an electrical box. The cattlepass will not be filled in, but Eversource has said that the Town or DCR must pay some costs to allow it to be incorporated into the trail. Rick raised the question of whether CPA trail funding is available for this. Remaining issues are the one foot stone shoulders on the sides of the 10 foot paved trail, and the crossing of Hayward Brook. The Con Com continued the hearing until May 25 at which time they expect to vote on issuing the wetlands permit. If so Eversource could start construction this summer. Mike Lowery suggested the possibility of obtaining a railroad boxcar for the freight house siding. Rick mentioned that there is a restored boxcar at the freight house in Lakeport, N.H. that is used as display space by the local historical society there.

4. Archaeology: Tonya discussed the sifting event of soil from the Castle Hill site to take place on June 17th, the Dorey House archaeology project that is expected to take place in September, and the need to come up with a budget to cover the cost of field equipment needed for the project to be done by UMass Amherst with local volunteers. Amanda will research the cost of the equipment after a committee composed of Elisa, Amanda and Tonya meet to discuss the budget. Tonya presented an invoice from John Pretola for \$600 for ceramic analysis from a site and this was approved. There was discussion of Castle Gate Road, an abandoned road, and a historic barn built ca. 1700 at 74 Moore Road. Tonya received a phone call from Cynthia Hill regarding a galloping horse on the Training Field.
5. The minutes of March 13, April 11 and May 8 WHC meetings were approved as amended.
6. New Business and Other Items: Edward Sanderson, Interim Recreation Director, sent an email today about the Public Input Meeting for the High School Athletic Facility Master Plan Update to be held on May 23. Gretchen Schuler is working on preservation restriction for Bradford Hall. Kay and Amanda described the MHC workshop on administration of demolition delay bylaws that they attended in Acton on May 15. Chris Skelly from MHC has offered assistance to Wayland. Kay mentioned that some towns such as Arlington or Lexington have "Single House Historic Districts."

Our next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Conard