

Wayland Historical Commission
December 12, 2017

Planning Board Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building

Present: Elisa Scola, Amanda Ciaccio, Rick Conard, John Dyer, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Kay Westcott; Guests: Sally Cartwright and Suzanne Woodruff

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

Public Comment

No public comment.

Wayland Public Library Update

- Sally Cartwright and Suzanne Woodruff from the Wayland Public Library Board of Trustees provided an update on work on the Library building and its possible future.

Restoration of Windows at 5 Concord Road

- Have applied to Community Preservation Commission for \$30K in funding and have gotten a quote from Old Bostonian, which replaced the historic windows at First Parish. The estimate is \$5,000/window.
- They will re-glaze the glass, and restore framing wherever possible and replace if necessary, using appropriate materials, including brass and mahogany.
- Considering an inner-glass system of storm windows, if possible.
- The windows are large and bowed, so working on them is tricky.
- Hoping it will be approved at Spring 2018 Town Meeting and the work done in the spring of 2019.
- **MOTION** To support the Library Trustees' application to the CPC to restore the three bow windows.
- **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Use of 5 Concord Road

- Talking with people from Arts Wayland and Cultural Council about possible uses of 5 Concord
- Sudbury is planning to open a History Center and we might learn from what they are doing

Friends of Wayland Cemeteries

- Kay researched friends of cemetery groups
- She drafted a proposal (*Appendix A*) that would pull community organizations together, e.g., Sudbury Valley Trustees, Wayland Historical Society, to create a group of supporters who would be trained on cleaning historic gravestones
- Would apply for a grant to get equipment for cleaning and for training

- Kay proposes that the effort should be centralized in the Wayland Historical Society (WHS) since they are a 501c3
- Elisa will suggest to the WHS that they put this item on their January agenda and Kay would be willing to attend and present her ideas

Cemeteries

- Mike Lowery spoke with Elisa about using CPC funds to properly rebuild the North Cemetery stone wall along the road and asked the WHC for any guidance.
- Kay has a disc with photos taken in 2000 of gravestones in North and South Cemeteries, some of which are no longer legible today. Would the WHC want to buy a copy of it for \$25 from the woman who took the photos?
- **MOTION** to buy the disc.
- **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.
- Footstones in South Cemetery that Amanda and Kay have matched with headstones: Who will repair/restore those?
- We should include this in our next restoration project, and carefully label them and store them until then, possibly in the Archaeology Lab.

Wayland Historical Commission website

- There hasn't yet been any progress at getting our portion of the Town website updated. Elisa is working on this with David Porter, the Town's Executive Assistant, and will continue to pursue it
- Kay presented a draft section on Historic Document Preservation and received suggestions from the group
- We'd like to put a link to the Herman Allen site (a Wayland High School history project) on our website, as well as a link to the Wayland History Project.

Castlegate Pillars

- Fall Town Meeting approved the work to rebuild the pillars
- The vote did not include the question of moving/not moving them
- The DPW wants to move them back two feet to widen the entrance slightly so they are not in danger of being hit. We want to maintain their historical integrity, ie., not move them.
- A compromise might be to agree to the move, as long as we can add an historical sign of our design that would show/explain the significance of the entrance and the Mansion Inn, as well as the Indian burial ground.
 - "These pillar once marked the entrance to the Mansion Inn....."
- Elisa will talk with the DPW about this idea

Grant Workshop, Grant Opportunity

- Tuesday, Jan. 16, 9am, a workshop on Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning
- Kay Westcott is going and is happy to take others
- Beth Klein is interested in getting a grant to expand the Town Vault, and/or keyword indexing of our records

- Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Grant requests are due March 23, 2018.
- We have applied twice for Stone Bridge and were denied because the bridge was not on the State Register of Historic Places.
- Now it is, and we can re-submit the grant request.

Railroad and Rail Trail Cattle Passes

- Lawrence Lynch hired Costello Dismantling to remove the rail and ties and dispose of them
- Nov. 14 Costello started working west from Plain Road
- By Dec. 2 they had reached Concord Road
- Working west to Weston line and by Dec. 7 the rails had all been removed
- Rick asked Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian to save three sections of rail for display
- We would like to restore a set of railrest posts and place them west of the Depot, and possibly re-create two more
- Artifacts marked for protection are still in place. They were to be placed in the freight house for the winter, but Sarkis did not want any damage to the freight house.
- Weston Special Town Meeting voted to preserve the two cattle passes in Weston
- Work will begin in the spring to create the paved trail

Archaeology

- Should we have an archaeological monitor at North Cemetery and Dudley Woods when work is underway at each site?
- **MOTION** to seek from the CPC \$5000 from the administrative fund to monitor North Cemetery during the expansion
- **MOTION PASSED** unanimously
- **MOTION** to seek from the CPC \$5000 from the administrative fund to monitor Dudley Woods during the trail building
- **MOTION PASSED** unanimously
- Elisa and Tonya will create a request for the CPC meeting on Dec. 20
- MHC wants a full survey of Dudley Woods and Tonya does not feel this is necessary
- The Dorey House dig is wrapped up. 21 people participated, mostly students.
- A Native American stone point estimated to be 4000-6000 years old was found in the pit by the barn door.
- Artifacts are being cleaned by a UMass student, who also agreed to give a talk to the town.
- Sensitivity map: This map identifies all the archaeologically sensitive areas in town
- John Dyer will take the thumb drive with the information to Brendan Decker to pursue this project
- Repatriation: We need to inventory the Mansion Inn material that was donated to the town by a resident who dug there
- Royce and Tonya are taking the rest of December off but Tonya can meet anyone here who needs to get in
- Tonya is giving a talk on Archaeology for Genealogists, Sat. Jan. 13, at the Wayland Library

Digital Records Online

- Northeast Document found a copy of our missing digitized items, and we got a second copy that we will send to BPL to put on Digital Commonwealth
- The formerly missing items are listed in *Appendix B*

Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 9, 2018.**

Additional Topics

- Kay researched the deed history on 113 Boston Post Road, the house next to Mahoney's. The house may have been built in 1910 but some documents indicate the house was there in 1908.
- She also researched the deed history of 24 School Street.
- She presented written summaries of both these research projects; both are appended to the minutes as *Appendices C and D*.
- We discussed how to present this information for public use: Either in a section on our website, or appended to the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon

Appendix A

Cemetery Mission Statement:

To promote, preserve, protect, and support the care of Wayland historic cemeteries while providing education and awareness of their significance.

Background Statement:

The American population is increasingly mobile and less likely to remain rooted in the same community for generations; fewer family members may remain near the cemeteries where their parents, grandparents, and ancestors are buried. Wayland is no exception to this issue. The North Cemetery created for the founding families of Sudbury Plantation, the South or Center Cemetery established as a needed extension and Lakeview serving the families of Cochituate Village are maintained by the municipality of the town of Wayland through the Department of Public Works.

Massachusetts State Law defines a cemetery as “*an area of land set aside and dedicated for the final disposition of the remains of a deceased person*”. Technically, a gravesite is a cemetery, as well as a place where cremations are placed. Our colonial ancestors placed human remains in what they called “burial grounds”. It was only about the 1840s that the term “cemetery” began to be used. The change occurred as a result of the changing view of death.

People visit cemeteries and have reasonable expectations, regardless of ownership. Grass should be mowed. Stones should be standing. Trees should not endanger headstones. Names should be known and knowable. This is how we honor those who are buried within our cemeteries. Cemeteries will always have these needs.

Cemeteries are more than the sum of their parts: they are storybooks. They render the character of a time and a place as much, if not more, than they do the individuals buried there. Shrines may lose value as individual objects, but they gain meaning as aggregates of history.

“Cemeteries are like open history books whose pages are tablets of stone.” ~ [Historic Cemeteries in Texas](#) – Texas Historical Commission.

Partnerships for Education:

Various community and Town groups can come together to provide extended education to help make the cemeteries of Wayland known for its architectural, historical and cultural value that they have to our present and future generations.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The Historic Cemeteries Master Plan includes:

- The history of the three city-owned cemeteries
- Inventory and condition assessment of above-ground features
- Preservation and conservation analysis and recommendations

- Site analysis and a conceptual landscape plan for each cemetery
- Going-forward recommendations for addressing policy and funding concerns
- GIS database and maps
- Survey, condition assessment, and recommendations for the treatment of cemetery trees

Phase I RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

Consisted of site evaluations, grave marker conditions assessments, tree survey, GIS digitization of existing graves, mapping of existing above-ground resources within each cemetery, and archival research.

- Assessment of the North Cemetery, the earliest cemetery for gravestone markers, and natural settings, followed by South Cemetery and Lakeview Cemetery which consists of a review and assessment of the conditions of grave markers and associated historic and cultural resources in the three cemeteries, documenting the general materials, marker types, designs, general ages, and conditions of markers within each section of each cemetery.
- Providing GIS location of each grave site. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a digital geographic data system that ties non-geographic information to locations on the ground and presents that information on a map.
- Digitizing the cemetery records
- Collected archival and historical information concerning the three cemeteries

Phase II LOCATION AND NATURAL SETTING INFORMATION

- Eco-regions
- Climate
- Soils and Vegetation
- Trees
- Wild Life as well as Threatened and Endangered Species

Phase III PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

- *Brochure*
 - *Provide cemetery histories*
 - *Geology of the cemeteries*
 - *Flora and fauna information*
 - *Wild life (i.e. butterflies, birds, deer, etc.) information*
- *Online information*
 - *Digitize cemetery records online*
 - *Photos and inscriptions online*
 - *Map of each cemetery*
 - *Town map of cemetery locations*
 - *Cemetery rules*
 - *Virtual Walks*
 - *FAQ*
 - *Link to Common symbols/emoles found in cemeteries*

- *History*
 - *Historically Significant Persons*
 - *Veterans' grave locations*
- *Programs*
 - Hire monuments conservator to train maintenance staff by providing cemetery preservation and maintenance Guidance/Resource Information
 - Managing historic cemeteries as historic sites or outdoor museums.
 - Cleaning monuments
 - Historical programming

Volunteer Activities

Volunteers help to sustain a historical and cultural resource that brings joy and reflection to all who walk, bike, sketch, photograph, and contemplate on the cemeteries. Volunteering in historic cemeteries is a very rewarding experience whether you work within the cemetery grounds or on another type of project. No matter what the experience, skills, interest or abilities, there is something to do. It is a great way to get to know the community and its history, have some fun, spend some quality time with old friends and perhaps make some new ones. Please consider joining and making a difference.

"One can tell the morals of a culture by the way they treat their dead."

Benjamin Franklin

Possible Partnerships

Conservation Department

Sudbury Valley Trustees

General Public

- *Geology of the cemeteries*
- *Flora and fauna information*
- *Wild life (i.e. butterflies, birds, deer, etc.) information*

Wayland Historical Society

Historical Commission

High School students volunteer time

WayCam

Daughters of the American Revolution Wayside Inn Chapter (Wayland)

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists

Wayland Churches

Bryant's Funeral Home

Wayland Public Library

General Public

- *Provide cemetery histories*
- *Photos and inscriptions online*
- *Virtual Walks*

- *Historically Significant Persons*
- *Historical programming*

Department of Public Works

Historical Commission

- *Digitize cemetery records online*
- *Map of each cemetery*
- *Town map of cemetery locations*
- *Cemetery rules*

Wayland Historical Society

Historical Commission

Department of Public Works

High School students volunteer time

Daughters of the American Revolution Wayside Inn Chapter (Wayland)

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists

Wayland Churches

Bryant's Funeral Home

General Public

- *Cleaning monuments*

Possible Programming

- *Group cemetery tours (for a fee)*
- *Cemetery picnic luncheons*
- *Book/author functions (with a cemetery tie-in)*
- *Costumed tours with volunteers playing the role of interesting persons interred at your cemetery*
- *Theatre/symphony evenings (refreshments/dinner/transportation arranged by Friends) Presented at a church*
- *"Paint-ins" for members of watercolor societies, museum groups, art classes*
- *Sponsorship of investment/mutual fund programs*
- *Recipe swaps (with samples)*
- *The sale of gift items with a cemetery tie-in*

Resources

Community Preservation Committee

Corporate sponsorship

Local business

Grants

- *Cultural Council of Wayland*
- *Massachusetts Historical Commission*
- *National Center for Preservation Technology and Training*
- *VA Cemetery Grants Program*

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2003/05/01/03-10688/state-cemetery-grants>

- Gravestone Preservation
- Association for Gravestone Studies
- [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#)
- *DAR Special Projects Grant*
- Historic Preservation Education Foundation (HPEF)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- [Edwin S. Webster Foundation](#)
http://websterfoundation.grantsmanagement08.com/?page_id=5 for example:
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery
 Cambridge, MA
 \$20,000 – Unrestricted support

Resource Online

Preservation Massachusetts <http://www.preservationmass.org/burial-grounds>

“Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s historic and cultural heritage. Preservation Massachusetts, originally called Historic Massachusetts, Inc., was established in 1985 by citizens concerned with preserving our heritage. In 1989, Preservation Massachusetts allied with the Architectural Conservation Trust and the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks to strengthen advocacy for our state’s valuable historic resources: our neighborhoods, buildings, and landscapes.”

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra-firma10.pdf>

Mission: To protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Mass. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Affairs

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources/historic-landscape-preservation-initiative.html>

Saving Graves <https://www.savinggraves.net/massachusetts>

Massachusetts Cemetery Preservation Law

- [General Laws of Massachusetts - Chapter 114 - Cemeteries and Burials](#)
- [Section 73. Tombs, graves, memorials, trees, plants; injuring, removing.](#)
- [Section 73A. Removal of gravestones and other memorials for repair or reproduction.](#)
- [Section 74. Desecrating place of burial; use and occupation as evidence of title.](#)
- [Section 75. Removal of flowers, flags or memorial tokens from burial lot.](#)

Appendix B

Good news! Northeast Document Conservation Center has found a copy of the missing digitized items:

- 10-01 Soldiers/Officers 1861 Rebellion
- 10-09 1130 Manuscript docs/Photostats 1868-1925 Births
- 10-10 1600 Manuscript docs 1785-1933 Marriages
- 10-11 1350 Manuscript docs 1800-1925 Deaths
- 10-14 Road Book

They are sending a copy to the Town Clerk, Beth Klein. I have asked for a second copy that we can send to Boston Public Library, who will place it on Digital Commonwealth. This saves time and money for the town – no purchasing an external drive or staff time to copy, which took several months initially. NEDCC has agreed to send the second copy. I continue to create metadata (subject headings) for the material.

Appendix C

See Kay Westcott research on [113 Boston Post Road](#), to be posted on WHC portion of Town of Wayland website

Appendix D

See Kay Westcott research on [24 School Street](#), to be posted on WHC portion of Town of Wayland website