Wayland Historical Commission

February 13, 2018

Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building

**Present**: Elisa Scola, Amanda Ciaccio, Rick Conard, John Dyer, Ann Gordon, Kay Westcott

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Digital Records**

* Kay provided an overview of two websites relevant to our work:
	+ Digital Commonwealth, which has Massachusetts history both digitized and handwritten. Kay is working on loading Wayland’s information on the site. [www.digitalcommonwealth.org](http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org)
	+ Archive.org is a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
* The committee is grateful to Kay for her work on this project.

**Railroad and Rail Trail Cattle Passes**

***Brush Clearing***

* Do we want to do a 17th annual brush clearing? Possibly May 5-6 weekend?
* Yes. It keeps the tracks and engine house site from getting overgrown
	+ Participants typically include Wayland residents, railroad buffs and Rail Trail folks
* Rick will look into renting a brush mower
* Can we put carpeting or some other barrier over the brush area after it’s cleared and kill off the roots so that we don’t have to clear it every year?
* Would like to pursue landscaping after the restorative work is done
* Who will be custodian of the site when we are done preserving it?
	+ Some of the area is owned by Town, some by the MBTA

***Collaboration with Weston***

* Rick is working with Paul Penfield on a field guide to “Treasures of the Trail” about features in Wayland and Weston
	+ It includes a checklist for users to check off the items they see

***Cattle Passes***

* The Town of Wayland received $60K trails grant from DCR
* It is a matching grant, and the town plans to use the remaining 30K in CPA money to match, for a total of $90K
* Sarkis Sarkisian estimates the cost of repairing the trestle over the Sudbury River (west of Russell’s) is $250K
* There is $250K remaining from Town Center gift that is not yet spent or earmarked
* They intend to work from Route 20 to the trestle
* We hope Eversource might continue the trail west of the town line

**Archaeology**

***North Cemetery Expansion Project***

* Amanda and Tonya met with Paul Brinkman, Town Engineer
* The Town is expanding the cemetery northward, and they need to add catch basins to take in water
* They’ll dig down about 8’ deep and 10’ wide
* Tonya contacted Barbara Donohue who did archaeology work there in the past, and she agreed to do more work there for $5K
* Amanda will ask why “old stone wall stones” are marked on the map for removal

***Dudley Woods***

* Amanda reported on Tonya’s behalf that if Town Meeting approves monitoring of the trails, we can plan to begin after July

***Repatriation***

* Some of the items coming back to us from Robbins Archaeological Museum contain human remains and the preference is to bury them as close as possible to the original site
* They continue to sort through the boxes to prepare for inventory

***Other***

* A canoe launch is being planned near Old Stone Bridge and Tonya wonders if we need to consider a monitor for that site as well

**Wayland Historical Commission website**

* We reviewed the website and made suggestions to improve accuracy and accessibility
* Ann will make the suggested changes

**Community Preservation Committee Meeting**

* Rick, Elisa and Kay attended a recent CPC meeting
* They voted to add an additional $20K to the Depot restoration to include restoration of the train order signal pole
* A public hearing is scheduled for tomorrow on CPC articles, including the Depot

**Minutes**

* Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Next Meeting**

* Our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 13, 2018.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon