Wayland Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2018

Senior Center, Wayland Town Building

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Archaeology**

***Dorey House***

* Tonya’s Dorey House report on Flora and Fauna was well received by UMass
* They may append it to their report as an appendix
* When the full report is available we will put it on the website
* The video that Elisa’s daughter Julia is creating about the Dorey House project will also go on the website when it is complete

***Backpack Auction***

* School fundraiser, archaeology group offers an archaeology lesson/tour of the lab
* A 4th grader and her family won it this year, and the event will be May 18 for the child and some friends
  + Amanda will teach about topographic layers with different types of dirt and sand in a plastic cup
  + They will also do a digging activity with the sifter
* We discussed the possibility of also offering a house history or deed search in the future

***Sensitivity Map***

* There are more than 100 town-owned parcels that are archaeologically sensitive, i.e., could contain artifacts
* Tonya has the registration sites from the MHC
* Tonya and John are working with Brendan Decker to try to produce the map
* It would be protected information and only available to town officials who need to know when they are planning projects
* Elisa suggests MHC write a letter for Brendan’s use explaining the importance of the designations, and their role

***Mansion Inn Repatriation Project***

* Amanda has identified a photographer who will photograph stone artifacts from the Mansion Inn site that are in our collection
* Some of the items coming back to us for repatriation from the Robbins Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology contain human remains and the Native American preference is to bury them as close as possible to the original burial site.
* We are following NAGPRA protocol in the handling of all these artifacts.
* Board of Health says we would have to go before Town Meeting for approval to replace the artifacts and human remains in Dudley Woods, in essence seeking approval to create a new cemetery in town
* In Nov. 2012, a Dudley Land Use Study called for a 10,000-gal septic system, which we would need to avoid
* Native groups had hoped to have this done by spring but the Town Meeting requirement may make that impossible
* We will need to learn from the Board of Health what sort of container is required, and also from the Native Communities what they require/prefer

***Archaeology Month***

* Will be in October 2018
* Kate at UMass may be willing to come and do a talk on the Dorey House project

**Railroad and Rail Trail**

* Kay gave the flyer about the rail yard cleanup May 5-6 to the Wayland Historical Society and they will put it on their website
* Ann will also send it to Wayland eNews

**Website**

* Tonya and Amanda will work on getting a paragraph description of our archaeology work/responsibilities to put on the website; they can add more over time
* We need to put the North Cemetery April 2017 report on the website.
* We have it on a disc but not the technology to use it. Elisa will speak with Mike Lowery to see if he can help, and also with the 375th anniversary report by John Dyer.

**Dudley Woods Signs**

* We have not been asked to review content or design, but can comment on mistakes in content or wording/spelling.
* We reviewed and compiled comments and suggestions for Sheila Carel and the Rec Dept. that Elisa will convey.

**Castle Gate Pillars**

* Kay drafted text for a sign to be placed near the pillars after they move, along with a photo of the mansion, explaining the Mansion Inn’s significance.
* Elisa suggested adding some additional facts and information to flesh out the story.
* We need to determine what material the sign should be and how big, and where it should be placed.

**Minutes**

* Minutes from the previous two meetings were reviewed and approved.

**New Business**

* Members of the COA-Community Center Advisory Committee contacted Elisa to discuss the proposed Community Center which is expected to have display space for artifacts, etc.
* Kay has begun looking at display cases and other display options.
* Elisa believes that Bill Sterling can recommend a senior center we might visit that displays artifacts.
* Next step is for Kay to meet with the Historical Society to begin discussions about how much space we/they might want.

**Next Meeting**

* Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:30pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon