Wayland Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2018

Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building

**Present**: Elisa Scola, Amanda Ciaccio, Richard Conard, John Dyer, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy,

Kay Westcott

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

**Public Comment**

* Sheila Carel:
  + Sheila expressed her distress about the process for reviewing the signs she has written for Dudley Woods in collaboration with the Recreation Dept. She feels that the Historical Commission does not have jurisdiction over this project, and should not have reviewed her work in a public meeting. She asked that we contact the Recreation Dept. to apologize.
  + Sheila asked that we act with great care in our oversight of the Mansion Inn pillars, and that we not move them. (She refers to the Mansion Inn property as the Marrs property.) She says that the pillars tell the story of what it was like to enter the estate through that narrow entrance, and that widening the pillars will destroy the historic integrity. She wonders if we have consulted any experts on preservation.
  + Sheila referred to the minutes from our March meeting, which indicated we will photograph some artifacts before they are repatriated. She wonders if we have considered the ethical implications. She feels it is disrespectful at best and possibly racist to photograph these objects, and urged us to consult Native communities for guidance.

**Archaeology**

***North Cemetery Expansion Project***

* North Cemetery expansion and monitoring is starting tomorrow
* Barbara Donohue met with Paul Brinkman and the contractor today

***Dorey House***

* Dorey House was demolished on Sat. May 12
* Tonya took pictures

***Backpack Auction***

* School fundraiser, archaeology group offers an archaeology lesson/tour of the lab
* Amanda and Tonya have pulled together some activities for this event, which is Fri. May 18
  + Sifting buckets of sand/soil
  + Teach about how layers help archaeologists identify how old things are, by making layers of different color soil and sand in a clear cup

***Sensitivity Map***

* There are more than 100 town-owned parcels that are archaeologically sensitive, i.e., could contain artifacts
* Tonya and John spoke with Brendan Decker about putting a version of the map online that is not too specific but shows general areas of interest

***Historical Commission Responsibility & Laws Regarding Metal Detecting on Public Land***

* Tonya received a bibliography on archaeology and historic preservation sources
* Also some information about laws describing HC powers and duties, including regarding metal detectors in sensitive areas
* Kay saw someone metal detecting in the North Cemetery, and spoke with Joe Doucette, DPW, about our interest in prohibiting this
* We do not have an explicit rule posted regarding metal detectors in cemeteries, but Mass. law prohibits use of detectors on “public land” which includes the cemetery
* Kay suggested Joe bring it up with his board
* The sign at Training Field does say that metal detection is prohibited
* We could create a sign for the cemeteries, modeled on one Kay found in Sudbury
* **Motion**: WHC should request that the DPW, as overseers of Wayland’s public cemeteries, erect signs in each cemetery prohibiting metal detection and gravestone rubbing
* **Passed unanimously**

**Railroad and Rail Trail**

***Brush Clearing***

* Brush clearing took place on May 5 & 6; on Saturday 15 people came, including three Wayland HS students doing community service; 3 people came on Sunday
* They worked on the side track that runs alongside the rail trail
* The idea originally was to clear all the dirt out between the rails, but that became too difficult, so the crew cleared dirt off the rails
* It opens up and preserves the vista down the track
* Containers from the Transfer Station were used, filled up with dirt and brush, and the DPW came and picked them up
* Rick rented a brush mower which was very helpful
* Rick sent thank-you notes to all participants, including the DPW

***Cattle Passes***

* Wayland has a concrete cattle pass; Weston has four, two are concrete and two are open girder
* Weston has been talking with DCR’s contractor which is JH Lynch, and Weston folks believe they can do the work less expensively than Eversource’s contractor
* Rick passed this information along to Wayland Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian
* Most of Weston’s tracks have been torn up, except over the open cattle passes
* The switchstand we asked contractors to save was supposed to have been moved recently and hasn’t been, yet
* Rail trail construction is underway in Weston, and they have excavated the road bed near Plain Rd.
* Artifacts – e.g., mileposts -- were supposed to have been moved to the freight house for the winter, and weren’t, but are still protected by orange fencing and don’t appear to have been damaged
* Rick suggests we leave them where they are for the time being

***Wayland Depot***

* Rick met with Ben Keefe about restoring the train order signal, which was part of the restoration work that was approved at Town Meeting
* Rick found an antique dealer that has some parts to restore it; Rick gave this information to Ben
* Rick met with Jean Milburn about the Garden Club’s interest in creating a 200sf bed of native wildflowers on the patch of grassy area just west of the Depot

**Website**

* Tonya, Amanda and Royce wrote a section for the website on Archaeology
* We now have the latest North Cemetery report and a Wayland 375 report on a thumb drive so we can add these to our site

**Castle Gate Pillars**

* We received an email regarding the Castle Gate Pillars, which is attached as Appendix A
* A recent discussion on the Facebook group “Cochituate Die Hards” also centered around the pillars, with various opinions about moving them
* Elisa has spoken with Tom Holder at DPW about the markers and signs we propose for the site
* We’d like ground-level markers on the pillar’s original locations, and a sign with historical information
* We reviewed draft copy for the sign
* Kay suggested we add Mansion Inn information to our website, she will draft an introduction

**Maps for Display**

* John displayed a large map detailing the history of building-related milestones in Wayland, and copies of additional maps showing specific areas of town

**Minutes**

* Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

**New Business**

* No new business

**Next Meeting**

* Our next meeting is **Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:30pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon

Appendix A

Email received by Elisa Scola, May 9, 2018

**From:** Contact form at Wayland MA <[vtsdmailer@vt-s.net](mailto:vtsdmailer@vt-s.net)>

**To:** "[cpandes@yahoo.com](mailto:cpandes@yahoo.com)" <[cpandes@yahoo.com](mailto:cpandes@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 9:50:01 AM EDT

**Subject:** [Wayland MA] Mansion Pillars (Sent by Alexia Obar, [obars@verizon.net](mailto:obars@verizon.net))

Hello escola,

Alexia Obar ([obars@verizon.net](mailto:obars@verizon.net)) has sent you a message via your contact form

(<https://www.wayland.ma.us/user/177/contact>) at Wayland MA.

Message:

Dear Historic Commission,

I am writing to express my concern about the action plan to address a

perceived issue of the Mansion Inn Pillars at Castle Gate Rd.  This is the

first I have heard about a plan to move the Pillars so I am concerned that

there hasn't been enough discussion and thinking outside the box how the best

handle these historic pieces.  I urge the board to spend the same extensive

time, energy and funding on achieving the best historically appropriate

possible outcome in this situation.

I know that you have spent a great deal of time on other historic sites in

town (stone bridge, bike paths, law office, heard grout, and cemetery) want

to make sure the same attention to details and historically appropriate

attention to this site too.

Please include this in the official record at your next meeting.

Best,

Alexia