

Wayland Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2018
Selectmen's Office Conference Room, Wayland Town Building

Present: Elisa Scola, Amanda Ciacchio, Richard Conard, John Dyer, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Kay Westcott

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

Public Comment

- Kay Westcott asked that we take a moment to recognize Elisa Scola's service as she prepares to step down from the chair position, which she held for more than five years. The Commission members drank a toast of sparkling cider and enjoyed sweet treats, all provided by Kay, and expressed thanks for Elisa's leadership. Kay Westcott will take over as chair in July.

Archaeology

Mansion Inn Artifacts

- Amanda consulted with Melanie O'Brien, National NAGPRA Program Manager with the National Park Service, to review NAGPRA protocol on the project
- Amanda has completed the forms required for repatriation, and will forward them to the appropriate tribal leaders
- Director of Mass. Commission on Indian Affairs, John Peters, spoke with Tonya and said he liked the idea of a Dudley Woods burial
- He was going to check with his commission members
- The Board of Health feels we need to declare it a cemetery site if we inter human remains
- This requires us to go before Town Meeting for approval
- We need to find out the deadline for placing an article in the Warrant, and the process for creating an article
- Ann will work with Tonya to write it

Gardescu Bench

- Amanda proposes that we place a bench by the outside door nearest the lab, for resting, watching, or lunching
- John Dyer has some information he had collected about benches
- Amanda will ask Rec. Dept. where they got the bench behind the Veteran's Memorial

Dorey House

- Dorey House was demolished on Sat. May 12
- The lot has been graded
- Tonya is waiting for the report, which is in its final stages of preparation
- We will put that report on our website when it is available

Archaeology Month

- Kate from UMass, who did the Dorey House dig, has agreed to speak on Sat. Oct. 20
- We have to pay the custodian fees, typically \$120

North Cemetery

- Tonya approved a \$2,500 invoice from Barbara Donohue, covering permit application and initial oversight

Backpack Auction

- This was a successful event with seven fourth-grade girls; the kids had fun and learned about archaeology
- They enjoyed the sifting project, and looking at animal skeletons
- Amanda provided a cake with stratigraphy (layers)

Sensitivity Map

- John Dyer and Tonya met with Brendan Decker and Paul Brinkman to talk about what should be on the map
- As long as they identify a broad area it reduces the risk of tampering

Dudley Woods

- Construction bid is going out separately from our bid
- Tonya and Kay met with Katherine Brenna in Recreation
- They are hoping the ad for the bid will go out June 21
- Bids will be accepted July 18
- Selection would take place the following week and award the end of July
- Construction would take several months
- The work must be monitored, so it will require coordination

Buildings Owned by Trinitarian Church

- Trinitarian Church is discussing demolishing the Ewing building and the parsonage for more parking
- There has been some discussion about how to save the historic buildings
- A working group including Gretchen Schuler is meeting to develop ideas and proposals to bring to the church for consideration

Castle Gate Pillars

- Elisa met with Tom Holder and Maureen Cavanaugh about the pillars
- Maureen doesn't feel we need a historic preservationist, but she will work with the DPW to make sure the person actually doing the work is well qualified
- Maureen told Elisa that it is a common preservation technique to move historic objects that are in harm's way
- Maureen spoke with Jefferson Bailey, an experienced historic mason, who has agreed to do the work
- She will supervise Mr. Bailey using the guidelines spelled out in Appendix B
- Sheila Carel submitted a compendium of comments on moving the pillars that she collected from the Facebook group "Cochituate Die Hards," attached as Appendix A.

Railroad and Rail Trail

Cattle Passes

- In early June Rick discovered some concrete work had been done – refacing of exterior side walls – on the base of the cattle passes. He consulted Wayland Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian and Paul Penfield in Weston. An Eversource contractor did work on the two of Weston’s four cattle passes that are concrete, and the one in Wayland.
- There has been some question about who should/could pay for preservation work on the cattle passes.
- Railings will be added at a later date.

Switchstand

- The switchstand we asked contractors to save from Weston was moved to just beside the freight house
- Rick hopes we can use parts to repair the switchstand we have in Wayland
- Can we find a volunteer to do the repair work?

Train Order Signal

- Ben Keefe has not made progress yet on the Depot
- Rick talked with Friends of Bedford Depot Park about how they restored their train order signal

Rail Rest Posts

- These were used to store spare rails in order to easily replace broken rails
- Three posts west of Depot were destroyed by EnStar brush clearing work over ten years ago
- One is still remaining east of Glen Road

Trail

- Paving started last week
- Wood fencing will be added at some point

Freight House

- Kay Westcott reported that The Wayland Historical Society has discussed the moving of the freight house by the Library closer to the road to create more parking in the upper lot behind it
- They have apparently spoken with members of the Historic District Commission
- The idea of moving it to the Depot side of Concord Rd. was discussed 15 years ago (Hines Wasser study) and there were no viable ideas for how that could work

Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

New Business

Mansion Inn

- Kay reported some recent research: After Michael Simpson passed away, son Frank E. Simpson inherited the property
- When he passed away, it went to his sister Helen
- She broke up the property and the piece between Mansion Inn and the pillars was the first to be sold

- Recorded in the deeds is a reference to an Indian burial ground north of the Johnson property
- Kay will try to pursue more details

Preserving Human History

- Our concerns are all about preserving objects
- Who is preserving history of Wayland's leaders, committee chairs, etc.
- What we preserve is lifeless, it's important to preserve the history and character of the town's people
- This was raised as food for thought

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting was not set.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon

Appendix A

Email received by Elisa Scola, June 7, 2018

From: Sheila Carel
To: Elisa Scola; Kay Westcott
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018, 12:57:56 PM EDT
Subject: Letters of concern regarding the moving of the pillars at Castlegate Road

Hello Elisa and Kay,

I just looked on the town website and I do not see a meeting posted for June.

I am also not sure when Kay will be taking over as the Chair of the Historical Commission.

I am including comments, made by members of the Cochituate Diehards Group and addressed to the Commission.

I ask that you engage a professional consultant to help you better understand the project of moving the pillars before doing so. Through the group, we learned the history of how the top of the pillar was knocked out of place. Back in the 1980's, somebody backed a car into the pillar. Some of the the granite blocks were knocked out of place. Stubby, Ernie Columbus, and his older brother, who all worked for the DPW, were charged with putting it back together. They did so, to the best of their abilities, and cemented the blocks in place. The pillars have been in that state since the 1908's with no further damage to the structure.

Before moving them, and altering the last remaining authentic piece of the landscape what was one the Simpson Estate, and which was also home to the Marrs family, including Laura Norcross Marrs, daughter of Otis Marrs, 19th mayor of Boston, and Kingsmill Marrs. The couple were a central partt of the original movement to make the Audobon Society National. Kingsmill Marrs was the author of the first Audobon Society magazine. Mrs. Marrs was a major benefactor to The Worcester Art Museum, but also donated pieces at the MFA, Harvard, and the Museum of Natural History in Venice, Italy. Another family member, Evangeline Marrs Simpson Whipple, is a published author, Native American rights activist, wife of the first Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota.

Please consider hiring a preservation expert to help you with the plans for the restoration of those pillars and please search out all possible avenues for preservation before considering moving them and destroying the last authentic bit of the historical landscape these people called home.

Sincerely,
Sheila Carel

To Wayland Historical Society, I am writing regarding the relocating or moving the Castlegate pillars which are a monument of our Cochituate history. I urge the commission to get professional assistance in order to be sure that if the pillars are to be moved that it be done without any damage to the pillars. These pillars are part of the history of Cochituate and should be treated as such. Respectfully, G. E. Rafus, Cochituate resident..

To the Historical Commission

Those landmarks have held up for years. They are not going anywhere. Show us why they need to be disrupted. Nope not buying it.i am all for preserving history.But I don't think it's necessary, so show us that it is.hire an expert before you may cause the very damage you claim it has. Jill Whitney Holmes

Dear Historical Commission,

Hire an expert before you begin any work concerning castlegate pillars. Better safe than sorry. Sometimes new ideas should stay ideas.

Jill Whitney Holmes

Members of the Wayland Historical Commission. I am writing to express my concern regarding your decision to move the pillars at Castlegate Road. In the past, you have shown great care in hiring experts to preserve historically significant cultural resources in our town. These pillars are historically significant and their presence at the edge of a scenic Road, West Plain Street, should not be altered, if possible. Please engage a preservation expert to advise you on this issue before you act and forever alter the landscape. Cochituate is known for its authentic sense of place. Please preserve it.
Sincerely, Sheila Carel

Members of the Wayland Historical Commission. I am writing to express my concern regarding your decision to move the pillars at Castlegate Road. What historical value will they have if you remove them from their original spot? I am appalled. "We had to move them the plow trucks kept hitting them." LOL!!! Hire better drivers or mark the pillars better. In the past, you have shown great care in hiring experts to preserve historically significant cultural resources in our town. These pillars are historically significant and their presence at the edge of a scenic Road, West Plain Street, should not be altered, if possible. Please engage a preservation expert to advise you on this issue before you act and forever alter the landscape. Cochituate is known for its authentic sense of place. Please preserve it. Sincerely, Sandy Healey

Dear Historical Commission,

Please hire an expert in historic conservation to assess the need for, and, if needed, how to move the pillars at Castlegate Road. These pillars are important to the history of Cochituate, and their location is also important, as it shows that they were set at a distance for carriages rather than cars. They are the last remnant of the Mansion Inn property, so a lot of care and thought should go into this decision. Jen King

To the Historical Commission :

I am fourth generation of a Cochituate Family.

I am saddened to think these Pillars are the subject of removal.

Why would any person or committees think to even suggest removing them! This is part of History !

They have stood the test of time.

How can you use the excuse of a snow plow destroying them?

Maybe your committee are new to our wonderful little town. Maybe you are typical yuppies that think you can make changes for reasons that YOU ALL THINK IS BEST !

Were any of you living in our little town during the

Infamous blizzard of '78?

Perhaps not.

Or any other major snow storms ?

These mighty Pillars are just that !

Mighty and they stand for something far more than your commission !

This is as ridiculous as moving confederate statues or other historical Statues !

What else will your commission decide to do next !

Get a grip ! Go play jacks or kick the can

Pat Rooney Croft

To The Historical Commission

Enough said .

Ron Merritt

Members of the Wayland Historical Commission. I am writing to express my concern regarding your decision to move the pillars at Castlegate Road. In the past, you have shown great care in hiring experts to preserve historically significant cultural resources in our town. These pillars are historically significant and their presence at the edge of a scenic Road, West Plain Street, should not be altered, if possible. Please engage a preservation expert to advise you on this issue before you act and forever alter the landscape. Cochituate is known for it's authentic sense of place. Please preserve it.

I am also curious if any members of the historical commission grew up in Cochituate and have roots in the town?

Your job is to preserve the history of the ENTIRE town ...

Kind Regards

The Doherty Family

To the historical commission. I with town family connections from the 1800's. Also a former member of the commision, historical society and leader of the wayland arch. Group feel that the removal of the historical significant meaning of the castle gate. Monuments at the entrance to the Marrs / Simpson historical lands. These have been in place thru so many snow storms. That i highly doubt the negativity towards them for what ever reason you have found to remove them. Let's leave Cochituate's historical significance in tact. We always relished how cute and quaint our village was.

Let it stay that way.

The center is over powering with "new". Oh i am a fourth generation thru Cormans, Yeagers, Lindbohms and Langthornes.

Karen Langthorne

Appendix B

Email received by Elisa Scola, June 15, 2018

From: Maureen Cavanaugh
To: Holder, Thomas; Elisa Scola; Kay Westcott
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018, 10:07:05 AM EDT
Subject: Castle Gate Pillars

Hi Tom – it was nice to meet with you and Elisa Scola this morning to review the relocation and restoration of the Castle Gate pillars.

As we discussed, the most important thing the Town can do to ensure a successful project is to hire a qualified mason that has a documented portfolio/resume of experience working with historic masonry. The mason should be able to provide plans and specifications that include:

- Existing Condition Documentation – This should include existing condition photographs and elevation drawings.
- Stone Labeling – The plans and specs should include a methodology to number each stone, with the numbers recorded on the elevation drawings and physically applied in a non-invasive manner on a secondary face of each stone.
- Stone Storage - The mason should provide a plan to store/protect the stones prior to reinstallation (so they don't walk away). Given it is such a small project, storing the stones off site won't likely be necessary. We discussed installing temporary cameras and signage noting that the area is under surveillance, as well as covering the stones at night.
- Mortar Analysis – In some circumstance, it may be beneficial to undertake an analysis of the historic mortar for the new mortar to match.
- Repointing – The mortar is in very poor condition and shows evidence of previous inappropriate repointing. Inasmuch as original mortar joints on the pillars can be identified, the repointing should match the original in mortar mix, color, and joint tooling. From looking at the pillars today, it appears that the older joints have a bit of a reveal, casting a slight shadow and highlighting the “H” and “Y” design.
- Test Patch - A test patch should be prepared by the mason for review and approval by the DPW, WHC, etc. and documented with photographs. The remaining work should match the approved test patch.
- The tops of the pillars should be reviewed with the mason to develop a plan to prevent plant growth and promote water being shed from the pillars and not migrating to the center core.

You indicated that you have worked with the mason Jeff Bailey in the past. I would be happy to meet with you, Jeff, and representatives of the WHC as the project moves forward.

Maureen