

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2018

Attendees: Members: Kay Westcott (Chair), Tonya Largy, John Dyer, Amanda Ciacchio, Rick Conard

Chair Kay Westcott called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm in the Selectmens' Meeting Room in the Wayland Town Building.

1. Public Comments: None.
2. The minutes of our July 19 meeting will be reviewed at our next meeting.
3. Buildings owned by Trinitarian Congregational Church: Elisa attended many meetings while Kay attended the last meeting between the Town and the Church about the buildings at 47 and 49 Cochituate Road that are owned by the church. The Ewing Building at 49 Cochituate Road is the former home of George Lewis, who was a prominent historian and author of several books on Wayland history. The former parsonage building at 47 Cochituate Road has been vacant for many years, with the pastors living elsewhere. The church now wants to demolish both buildings. Elisa has been on a committee including church and Town officials to consider alternatives to demolition. The Town has offered to rent one of the buildings for office space. The idea of using the buildings for affordable/low income housing has been discussed. The Historic District Commission has also discussed these buildings, but they are not within the boundary of the historic district. Historical Commission members consider these buildings to be historically significant and an important part of the streetscape in Wayland Center. Amanda made a motion seconded by Tonya that the Historical Commission write a letter to the Town Crier and other media outlets urging that these buildings be preserved. The vote was unanimous (5-0) that the WHC write a letter to that effect. Kay will write the letter.
4. Castle Gate Pillars: A contractor for the DPW is scheduled to start work of moving and restoring the pillars on Sept. 4. Kay presented and the commission discussed the text to appear on a panel to be placed beside the relocated and restored pillars. There is an effort to have new historical marker signs in Town conform to a similar style, like the proposed Dudley Woods signs, the aqueduct signs on Old Connecticut Path near Rice Road and on Stonebridge Road, and the DCR Cochituate Gatehouse sign. We reviewed the fact that Mike Lowery had promised to put up the sign by paying for it and allowing the WHC to write the content of the sign panel and to choose the type of sign used. DPW was not present for the Aug. 23, 2018 meeting to give us this responsibility. We believe that Mike was speaking on behalf of BPW instead of DPW.
5. Railroad and Rail Trail: Rick said he understood that the top course of asphalt paving was to be placed on the trail starting last week. A possible ceremonial trail opening may occur during a weekday sometime in September. The Historical Society and Friends of the Wayland Rail Trail have been discussing a bike parade event to be held on Oct. 13 and have asked that the WHC also participate. There could be historical tours of the trail to explain the railroad artifacts either through a walking tour or volunteers located at the important artifacts to explain them. The Historical Society is also interested in having a program on the history of the railroad at a later time, and Rick has been asked to provide a program.

6. Archaeology Update: Tonya said that we are having our Archaeology Month event on Oct. 20 featuring a presentation on the Dorey House archaeological investigation. The Historical Society is not co-sponsoring this year so we will have to arrange to provide for the refreshments ourselves. Amanda and Tonya have been working on a plan for the repatriation of artifacts that were originally from the Mansion Inn site. Amanda is trying to get input and approval from local native tribe officials before presenting a plan to John Peters, Executive Director of the Mass. Commission on Indian Affairs. Discussions have been held in the past with the Wayland Board of Health regarding the procedure for returning artifacts and remains to an appropriate place in a respectful manner. Mass. General Laws Chapter 114 Section 34, "Use of land for burial" is believed to be relevant to this process and Town approval is necessary although it appears unclear as to the specific manner in which this local approval can be obtained (Town Meeting warrant article, action by Selectmen or Board of Health, etc.). There was continued (from past meetings) discussion of an appropriate place for a bench in memory of Paul Gardescu. Amanda and Tonya said that they feel that the grassy area at the southwest corner of the Town Building, outside the Archaeology Lab, would be a very appropriate place, in consideration of the many years that Paul volunteered inside the Archaeology Lab. A motion was made that we consider placing a bench there, seconded by Tonya. This was approved by unanimous (5-0) vote. The next step will be for Amanda to discuss this with Ben Keefe. The bids were received for the archaeological monitoring for the Dudley Woods trails, and PAL submitted the lowest bid and was selected. Tonya and Kay performed site visits at Wayland Housing Authority properties where sidewalk, driveway and tree removal work will be done to assess any impacts that might occur to archaeological resources. They invited Brian Boggia to see the Archaeology Lab at some time in the future.
7. Digital Records: Kay has been working diligently on these for the past eight months. They were shown to the Town Clerk. When Kay last viewed these records she found formatting problems that are new and will need to be resolved.

Our next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Conard