**Wayland Historical Commission**

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019

Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building

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

Guest: Mike Lowery

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm

**Review Minutes**

* The minutes of the April 2019 meeting and the May 6, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections

**Cow Common**

* We would like to gather more information about Cow Common before inviting Sean Fair, Chair of the Conservation Commission, to a meeting with us
* There is some concern about whether the weed pulling and brush clearing is disturbing the old stone foundation
* We would like to create better and more consistent lines of communication with Conservation when they are working on projects that might interest us
* It was suggested that we write a letter to Conservation asking to be notified when they are aware of or working near items like foundations, walls, or manmade or other artifacts so we can determine if they are important and should be protected

**Motion**: Write a letter to Conservation Dept. asking them to inform the WHC of important or historic structures they become aware of during their work

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**Loker Conservation Area**

* Kay presented a request at the recent Conservation Commission meeting that a survey be done by a Native American surveyor
* The Conservation Commission asked Kay to meet/talk with the Recreation Commission, but since both Conservation and Recreation own land at Loker, we need to coordinate with both groups
* The Recreation Land was surveyed in 2013; that report focused on the project area, but the survey work may have included areas beyond the field location
* The report does say that further study needs to be done
* We need to communicate with the Recreation Commission regarding our desire for a survey before any work is done, and we hope to have the support of the Recreation Commission in surveying the Conservation Land

**Motion**: We request that the trailheads in the Conservation land be surveyed by a qualified Native American ceremonial landscape researcher who is recognized by the federal government. This survey is needed to identify any ceremonial landscape features that are there, in order for them to be protected. We request this survey be done before work on the parking lot and trailheads begins. We also request the support of the Recreation Commission in our request for a complete survey of the Conservation Land within the Loker Conservation and Recreation Area before any work begins, to wit: Please support our request to the Conservation Commission to have all the Loker conservation areas surveyed for Native American Ceremonial landscape.

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**Report from the CPC (via Elisa Scola)**

* All three articles that CPC brought to Town Meeting passed. The CPC will meet during the summer only if they need to.

**Railroad and Rail Trail**

* Nine Saturday volunteers and three on Sunday came to help clear brush from around the railroad artifacts at the Wayland Depot on May 4 and 5. Three people from Weston came, and one person from the Waltham Land Trust came both days, in addition to a volunteer from Arlington, one from Newton, and a teacher from Wayland Middle School
* The Transfer Station staff was very helpful, providing containers for the brush and dirt
* Volunteers cleared off the engine house site and tracks, and removed dirt from the side track
* Steve Vitello, project manager for the town on the Depot project, has met with the contractor, Harper Elm, and is waiting for scope of work
* They expect to purchase the signal hardware at some point in the future

**Archaeology**

**Mansion Inn**

* Ryan Wheeler, Dir. Of Peabody Museum in Andover, contacted Amanda to offer us the option of transferring our artifacts through the proper legal processes to the Peabody Museum as part of their collection of Wayland artifacts, which will then all be returned to Wayland eventually, assuming this is still what the Native nations want.
* Amanda has attempted many times to contact and/or meet with Native American representatives, but has not had success, and cannot complete the proper forms without their input
* This has been difficult, frustrating, and protracted
* Transferring our remaining artifacts to the Peabody would expedite the eventual resolution of their final destination

**Motion:** Transfer our collection to the Peabody Museum for proper handling and repatriation

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**Dudley Woods Trails**

* Tonya reported that work on the trail is finished except for the bioswale; she has not heard more about when that will be completed
* A letter of completion will go to the Recreation Commission and a copy to Tonya
* The archaeological monitor said that only very recent items were found
* The interpretive signs that had been discussed for Dudley Woods are no longer in the works
* Kay will check with the Recreation Dept. on whether they are considering a different signage plan

**Memorial Bench**

* The bench has been ordered and will be delivered in early June

**Town Form for Proposed Projects**

* Ann has worked on the draft that Tonya and Amanda prepared, and will share with Elisa so she can add something about historic homes and buildings
* A final draft will be shared with the full commission when ready

**Backpack Auction**

* The auction is over but we haven’t yet heard from the winner

**Additional Items**

* John Dyer announced that while he has enjoyed his service on the WHC, he needs to step down. WHC members thanked him for his extensive contributions to both the WHC and the town of Wayland. John excused himself from the rest of the meeting.
* Tonya is planning to apply for a grant for a roving archaeologist to help organize the lab
* She also needs funding for an external hard drive for the lab so people can work off site, as well as a supply of archival folders
* National Grid has been replacing structures, including two in Wayland; Duncan Ritchie will send Tonya a map, and Tonya will keep her eye on this
* Tonya reported that the Commission’s copy of *Cremation Cemeteries of Eastern Massachusett* by Dena Dincauze is falling apart. She found a copy for purchase online for $55 and suggests we buy it.
* **Motion:** Approve up to $60 for purchase of the book
* **VOTE: 6-0-0**
* Tonya offered to present a lecture in October for Archaeology Month, which this year highlights women in archaeology. She will speak about Dena Dincauze’s work on the Mansion Inn site.
* Mike Lowery reported that the process of getting work done on Stone’s Bridge is going to involve legal counsel’s time since a portion of the bridge is in Framingham and he believes the boundaries are not sufficiently clear to begin work. Tom Holder in DPW is concerned that unless he gets access to Town Counsel, he should not go forward. He has not yet been given access to Town Counsel. Only the Administrator and the Selectmen can decide who gets access to Town Counsel.
* Kay will investigate an intermunicipal agreement created with Framingham a number of years ago.
* Rick shared that on Thurs. May 30, Weston Historical Commission will sponsor a talk by Eric Dray about the state Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Properties, in Weston Police Station Community Room at 7:30 p.m.
* In addition, on May 29 the Wayland Public Library will have a presentation about the railroad in Wayland

**Next Meetings**

* June 11

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon