

**Wayland Historical Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2020, 11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom

**Present by Zoom:** Katherine Gardner-Westcott, chair; Amanda Ciaccio, Richard Conard, Ann Gordon, Elisa Scola. **Not Present:** Tonya Largy, Brad Carver

E. Scola departed early

Katherine Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. She read required legal notices and reviewed the agenda. She noted that the meeting was being conducted via Zoom, and that the public was encouraged to communicate via Zoom or to call in with comments and questions.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**Approve Minutes**

The draft minutes from November 13, 2020 were reviewed, including two new amendments.

**MOTION:** A. Gordon moved, and A. Ciaccio seconded, that the minutes be approved. Roll call: A. Ciaccio—yes; A. Gordon—yes; R. Conard—yes; E. Scola—yes; K. Gardner-Westcott—yes. **MOTION was approved 5-0**

K. Gardner-Westcott requested that an addition be made to the March 9, 2020 minutes, adding the statutory reason for invoking Executive Session

**MOTION:** A. Gordon moved, and A. Ciaccio seconded, that the addition to the March 9, 2020 minutes be approved. Roll call: A. Ciaccio—yes; A. Gordon—yes; R. Conard—yes; E. Scola—yes; K. Gardner-Westcott—yes. **The MOTION was approved 5-0**

**Reports from other Boards' Minutes**

- A. Ciaccio: Planning Board looking at 105 Plain Road, private property where a “conservation cluster” development is being proposed, including preservation of the 131-year-old home
- E. Scola will send a letter inviting the owners to apply for a house plaque
- A. Gordon: Conservation Commission primarily considering changes sought by private homeowners
- R. Conard: Historic District Commission: Some changes to homes on Bow Road (fence, e.g.). Most recent minutes available online are from May 2019. R. Conard will check with HDC Chair on this.
- E. Scola: Recreation: Discussing Oxbow Field; planning to bring Loker Turf Field to Annual Town Meeting 2021
- K. Gardner-Westcott asked about the boat launch at Dudley Pond and the placement of new signs on the Snake Brook trail: did anyone learn about this from the minutes of other committees?
- E. Scola: Community Preservation Committee: There is an updated application form for applications due Jan, 4, 2021

**House Plaque**

- Have had two recent requests: From 1962, near Oxbow, Dutch architect-designed that is being preserved; and another home from the 19<sup>th</sup> century

### **Wayfinding Signage**

- A. Gordon reported that the committee met earlier in the week and is beginning to coalesce around a design. Sarkis Sarkisian, who leads the effort, and one other committee member plan to meet with the graphic designer soon to begin the process of finalizing the design

### **Railroad and Rail Trail Depot**

- R. Conard contacted T. Holder and J. Doucette in late Nov. to ask if the DPW could mow the brush on the railroad site once more before winter sets in
- R. Conard reported that K. Gardner-Westcott had observed brush clearing east of the freight house on Dec. 3, west of Milbrook Road. It could have been an effort by Eversource.
- Wayland Facilities Dept. has taken custody of the train order signal parts they purchased. The parts are not complete, some additional parts are still needed, particularly the top casting that fits on the top of the pole and holds the signals, and some rods, linkages, cranks and so forth. There is no word on whether Facilities has retained a contractor to install the signal.
- Sudbury Historical Commission (SHC) has been dealing with the proposed Eversource power line to be built along the railroad corridor in Sudbury. They have hired an historical consultant, Stacy Spies, who has prepared a draft MHC Form A for the entire RR corridor, 4.6 miles long, through Sudbury. The SHC hopes to meet with Eversource. Eversource is trying to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for two bridges over brooks, and SHC is dealing with that permitting process and they are also expecting to submit the MHC Form A to Mass Historical Commission at some point. They need to write a letter detailing their concerns. Because this will be a buried powerline, it will involve tearing up the tracks, digging a conduit, and there are many questions about the impact on the historical artifacts along the railroad line

### **Cemetery**

- A. Gordon reported that Tom Holder, DPW Director, had offered to have the recently broken gravestone in South Cemetery repaired. Holder also said that because of the deductibles, it was not appropriate to use insurance to cover the cost.
- Because the WHC is planning to seek CPC funding for a larger cemetery repair effort in both Lakeview and South Cemeteries, A. Gordon asked Holder to wait on the repair of the one stone
- A. Gordon and B. Carver are working together to submit an application for CPA funding for an assessment of both cemeteries. For reference, K. Gardner-Westcott has a copy of the 2003 assessment of North Cemetery that can be viewed at the Wayland Museum. There is also a copy in the WHC files in the Town Building.

### **New Business**

- WHC has been asked to provide letters of support for two applications to CPC for funding
- The first is from the Wayland Public Library, which requests support for preserving historical documents/books using Northeast Document Conservation Center. At the time of its request for WHC support, the Library did not yet have a cost estimate but was expecting to receive one.
- R. Conard: Inclined to support it, but would like to see a cost estimate. Would also like to ensure that items are eventually made available digitally
- CPC has funds in specific categories. This would fall into the historic preservation bucket, but additional funding is available through the general preservation fund

**MOTION:** A. Gordon moved, and E. Scola seconded: That the WHC write a letter of support for the Library's proposed project; Roll call: A. Ciaccio—yes; A. Gordon—yes; R. Conard—yes; E. Scola—yes; K. Gardner-Westcott—yes. **MOTION was approved 5-0**

- A. Gordon will draft a letter of support
- The second request for support comes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC), asking for support for renovating and restoring 70-74 Main Street
- K. Gardner-Westcott: This is private property, this is an ongoing project for the EDC, they have been working with this owner to add more affordable housing, and they want to encourage the property owner to improve the building with CPA funding
- E. Scola: CPC likes to have a preservation restriction even on privately owned buildings. This is a quasi-public building since it has storefronts. E. Scola is in favor of restoring it in a historically accurate way, as long as it is protected; preservation restrictions are individualized, and spell out expectations for maintenance, and that any changes the owner wishes to make to the building have to come before the WHC for review. Preservation restrictions are typically set for a period of time that equals the expected life of the renovation, 30 years, for example. The restriction would likely address the public nature of the building, if for example, an owner wanted to turn it into a private dwelling. The public should have access to a building they paid to upgrade.
- [E. Scola departed the meeting at this time]
- K. Gardner-Westcott did deed research on the property, and was able to trace it back to 1927 and could not get back further.
- An 1887 map indicates that it may have been part of the Loker Stables, a larger unit.
- It appears the building is at least 100 years old.
- R. Conard: I don't think I can support a recommendation to the CPC today because I don't have enough information. I think we could entertain the opportunity to support it at Town Meeting depending on what CPC does.
- A. Gordon: Agree with Rick, I don't feel I have enough information to support it or not support it
- A. Ciaccio: I support preserving it, but I need to understand compliance with restrictions. I want to support the small-town feel of Cochrane. I support the project in theory.
- R. Conard: My questions are about the history of the building and the feasibility of the project. I support using CPC funds for affordable housing, but I can't support using the historic preservation money for a portion of this project unless we get more information. We could invite Rebecca Stanizzi (EDC Chair) to appear at a future WHC meeting. R. Conard also noted that our support is not required
- K. Gardner-Westcott: We can indicate that we support the concept but need more information before we can support the specific project

**MOTION:** R. Conard, A. Ciaccio seconded: A. Gordon should draft a letter to the EDC that we support the concept of using CPC funds for affordable housing in historic buildings, but we don't have enough information at this time to make a decision on this project. Roll call: A. Ciaccio—yes; A. Gordon—yes; R. Conard—yes; K. Gardner-Westcott—yes. **MOTION was approved 4-0**

### Archeaology

- A. Ciaccio submitted a grant application to the Wayland Cultural Council for help setting up an inventory system in the archaeology lab
- The Mass Cultural Council is not currently accepting applications for the Roving Archivist
- There is still no access to the lab, but once there is, A. Ciaccio will start re-bagging artifacts
- A. Ciaccio is interested in volunteering for a few hours a week in the Boston City Archaeology Lab (once they accept volunteers) to learn about their curation and inventory system

### **Gardescu Bench**

- Mary Antes has written that we can buy the plaque with our budget
- R. Conard: Shall we add “Wayland Historical Commission” to the plaque, and “Landscape Architect”
- We should include T. Lary in this discussion, and eventually get Betty Gardescu’s approval
- How should plaque be affixed to the bench? Can you drill through the bench material?
- Should it be recessed into the back of the bench?
- We will need to get all these details decided so we can write a letter to the Selectboard for their approval
- A. Ciaccio will continue to gather details about the plaque

No additional business was identified.

**MOTION:** A. Gordon moved and R. Conard seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call: A. Ciaccio—yes; A. Gordon—yes; R. Conard—yes; K. Gardner-Westcott—yes. **The MOTION was approved 4-0**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Gordon