

Wayland Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

In the Select Board Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building, In Person and on Zoom

Present: Katherine Gardner-Westcott, Tonya Largy (arrived 6:48pm), Sherry Anne Bryant, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Brad Carver

Not Present: Amanda Ciaccio

K. Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review Minutes

A. Gordon moved and B. Carver seconded to accept the June minutes as amended. A. Gordon: yes; S.A. Bryant: yes; R. Conard: yes; B. Carver: yes; K. Gardner-Westcott: yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Volunteer Appreciation

It was agreed to take a group picture of all the volunteers at the archaeology lab at the next opportunity. This is still in the works. T. Largy will call some of the volunteers to find out their schedules.

Cemetery RFP Update

We have received three proposals for the gravestone preservation project, and the sub-committee – Ann Gordon, Brad Carver, and Sherry Anne Bryant – will review them separately from the price bids. John Bugbee will meet with the sub-committee to instruct on the process.

House Plaques

K. Gardner-Westcott showed photos on her phone that S. A. Bryant took of house plaques in Wayland with different designs. Some had a raised border and others a black outline. Brad had also learned this from Elisa Scola (previously in charge of this program with WHC), who had moved from the raised border to the black line. The sizes and materials were also different. The company in NJ makes 13x19 signs, which is slightly larger, but the consensus was to go with it. The company does not make raised borders, they use a black border. B. Carver will look into font choices, and will continue to move this forward, supported by consensus of the group.

Archaeology

T. Largy reported that the group started on the Castle Hill project, which was done differently from the Sand Hill project. The Castle Hill artifacts have catalog numbers painted directly on them. R. Conard described a cataloging system in which item bags had a “d” or “r” on them, which he suggests could be “discard” or “removed.” There could be five catalog numbers on the bag but only two items within. Some might have been discarded, some removed to a different

location. R. Conard reports that some of the “r” items have been found in another box. The work continues.

K. Gardner-Westcott ordered archival notebooks for the lab, and has been told they’ve been delivered to the lab. The materials in the gray notebooks in the office should be transferred to the archival notebooks.

Railroad and Rail Trail

R. Conard shared a letter he and K. Gardner-Westcott sent to SWCA Consultants (working for Eversource) to request removal of the tower in the turntable pit, and to bury the transmission lines. S. Vitello is waiting to hear from David Graf about his schedule to come do the work of installing the train order signal. Eversource has hired Lewis Tree Service to maintain and trim trees near the transmission lines. R. Conard has not observed any impact on railroad artifacts. Art on the trail – painted doors – is currently along the Rail Trail. It is a temporary exhibit. R. Conard has been spraying WD-40 on the bolts of the signal cabinet at Plain Road, which will require quite a bit of work if it is to be rehabbed into an exhibit. Its dimensions are 5’W x 6’H x 23” D.

Rickety stairs leading to one of the doors on the Freight House are not attached to the building. DPW has built a more secure set of stairs to the freight house. K. Gardner-Westcott wonders if the old stairs can lead to a reconstructed platform for sitting. She sees people sitting on the old steps all the time, chatting. R. Conard would like to see a ramp added, to make the building more fully accessible. K. Gardner-Westcott encourages us to think of possible use of the Freight House for a new purpose, and whether we might want to seek CPA funding.

Reports from Other Boards

R. Conard asked Ben Keefe recently about Stone’s Bridge, and Ben wanted to be sure the Army Corp’s permit for working in the river was still valid. If it is, he saw no reason they couldn’t put it out to bid.

The Planning Board is continuing its hearing on the Community Center, discussing details about design and landscape, but nothing was said in their most recent meeting about archaeology.

Regarding the Mill Creek project, R. Conard is concerned about the house/professional offices facing Pelham Island Road, behind the post office, which was originally on Route 20 near the current entrance to the shopping center parking lot. It was originally the home of Thomas Mahoney, the railroad engineer.

New Business and other items not identified prior to submission of Agenda

K. Gardner-Westcott updated the group on the work of archiving records from the Assessor’s Office from the 19th century. She also indicated that A. Ciaccio had found a sign vendor called Voss that we might look at for interpretive signage at Castlegate and elsewhere. R. Conard reports that Terri Evans, member of the Natick Planning Board, did the research and writing for the signs along the Cochituate Rail Trail in Natick.

Next Meeting:

Monday, September 11, 6:30pm (with the possibility of an August meeting if needed)

MOTION: R. Conard moved and B. Carver seconded to adjourn the meeting. B. Carver: yes; S.A. Bryant: yes; T. Largy: yes; R. Conard: yes; K. Gardner-Westcott: yes. A. Gordon: yes. Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon