

## **Wayland Historical Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

September 11, 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, Sherry Anne Bryant, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Brad Carver, Amanda Ciaccio

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

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Review Minutes**

R. Conard moved and A. Ciaccio seconded to accept the July minutes as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Volunteer Appreciation**

A photo was taken of the Archaeology volunteers gathered by the Gardescu bench. We will include it in our annual report. It will be framed or turned into a plaque to hang in the Archaeology office. A. Ciaccio asked if there are existing photos of previous volunteers that could receive the same treatment.

### **Annual Report**

The group reviewed a draft of a bullet list of the year's accomplishments and projects and made corrections and additions.

### **Cemetery RFP Update**

A. Gordon reported that Epoch Preservation in Ipswich has been chosen to do the preservation work in the cemeteries. The Select Board is voting tonight on the proposal. We will need to review the contract and work with Epoch on a schedule once the contract is available. This is a very large two-year project that will require considerable monitoring.

### **Archaeology**

Have continued to inventory and work through challenges in data processing. The charcoal and soil samples must be reviewed by T. Largy to determine their appropriate disposition. There are still many artifacts to inventory and return to their original place, and it is painstaking and time-consuming work.

### **House Plaques**

Brad Carver reported that the family at 148 Plain Road is interested in a house plaque. Brad and Kay helped determine the date of 1875. Brad has not been able to get a response from the Hand Painted Wood Signs company that we selected for plaques (the only one that uses cedar), after trying to reach them multiple times. The consensus was to move on to another vendor.

Most use MDO marine plywood or PVC. B. Carver will contact Custom Signs and Lettering in Waltham. We voted to allow Brad to pursue other vendors if necessary. 7-0.

### **Railroad and Rail Trail**

R. Conard reported that the Train Order Signal on the Depot has been partially installed. The Town hired a lift, and about a foot and a half had to be taken off the top of the mast because of rot. On July 26, 2023, David Graf installed the two cast-iron spectacles on top of the pole, and the signal control levers inside the Depot (agent's office), and tried to connect the control lever rods to the signals, but the rods were not the right length. The curvature of the connection is not the right shape, and they need to be refabricated or reworked by a blacksmith. There are two rods outside that also need to be fabricated. The steel signal blades that attach to the spectacles have not been installed, nor have the lenses – red, yellow and green – that fit inside the spectacles. A ladder that goes on the outside of the pole is being reworked by a blacksmith, and a lantern that goes at the top of the mast is at Yankee Lighting Workshop, where Scott Sweeney is removing the paint. The plan is to electrify the lamp when it is done. This work was all done during the summer of 2023 while the Depot was closed.

Rail Trail conference is Oct. 14, and R. Conard has offered to give a tour of the Wayland site. On Sat. Sept. 30 the Boy Scouts will come to do some brush clearing, and R. Conard has asked the DPW to brush mow it before the Scouts come so the boys can concentrate on the things the machines can't reach.

### **Reports from Other Boards**

R. Conard reported that owners of the Captain Edward Pousland House across from First Parish in Wayland have applied to the HDC for some renovation of the back porch. He also reported there is a new appointee to the Historic District Commission.

T. Largy reported for the Surface Water Quality Commission that Heard Pond is overrun by water chestnuts and it cannot be cleared by hand. At Dudley Pond, the harvester the Town bought to deal with the tape grass has been breaking down and DPW staff have to fix it.

R. Conard reported that Stones Bridge was recently on the PMBC agenda but they were not able to talk about it because they lacked a quorum.

K. Gardner-Westcott went to see the Loker Field site to see the current status. It is not clear if Duncan Ritchie has been there to do monitoring.

### **Conversation with Michael McCall**

Town Manager Michael McCall visited the Lab on September 6. A. Ciaccio and T. Largy gave him a brief overview of the Lab and showed him some artifacts. K. Gardner-Westcott also met with him, and gave him the form we created for Town departments who are digging on Town land, emphasizing its importance. She also talked with him about how the Town might celebrate the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026.

**Other Things**

We are responsible for creating signage for Castlegate and for Dudley Woods. We need to create a plan to for accomplishing this.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, October 2, 6:30pm

**MOTION:** B. Carver moved and T. Largy seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon