

## **Wayland Historical Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Present:** Sherry Anne Bryant, Brad Carver, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Amanda Ciaccio, Katherine Gardner-Westcott (arrived at 7:02 pm)

S.A. Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **Veritas School**

This discussion was postponed until later in the meeting

**Public Comment:** None

**Review of Minutes:** MOTION: B. Carver moved and A. Ciaccio seconded that we accept the amended minutes from December 4, 2023. VOTE: 6-0 in favor

### **Wayland High School History Website**

S. A. Bryant reports from K. Gardner-Westcott that the High School History Site is partially restored online, and remains hosted by the high school.

### **Cemeteries**

A. Gordon and B. Carver will meet with Epoch Preservation by Zoom on Jan. 22 to kick off the restoration project.

### **Archaeology**

A. Ciaccio reports that the inventory work continues, focusing on Sand Hill and Castle Hill. She further reports that Chris Thompson has made an edit on the film, but has not responded to Amanda's email or requests for other specific edits. She requested payment from the Cultural Council and will pay him when payment arrives. The film is, in the end, more of a human interest story than originally intended. A. Ciaccio suggests we package the film with an introduction to give it some context.

T. Largy reviewed the minutes from the Conservation Commission regarding Sherman's Bridge Conservation area, and archaeology services have been added to the plan. In the past, T. Largy has guided the town in the bidding process for archaeological services. Several archaeology services are no longer operating, so it could be more challenging now to find bidders. Ben Keefe writes the RFP.

T. Largy reported that she intends to follow up with the architect of 1 Weir Meadow.

The lab has a box of materials from Framingham, and T. Largy had asked K. Gardner-Westcott to contact Framingham. S. A. Bryant shared information from K. Gardner-Westcott that she has contacted the Framingham History Center and has not heard back.

(K. Gardner-Westcott arrived)

**Stone's Bridge:** K. Gardner-Westcott reported that the CPC agreed to sponsor a warrant article for additional funding to repair Stone's Bridge. She urges the Commission to think about how to begin building a base of support among Town voters for this funding.

If we don't repair the bridge and it falls into disrepair, we will likely need to remove the debris from the river because it would pose a hazard, requiring heavy equipment. The site is monitored by the Army Corps of Engineers. In 2007, Framingham agreed to help clear the site, then in 2012 the Town of Framingham withdrew that offer, saying that it is not in their town since it doesn't physically connect to their town land.

There are trees and shrubs growing on the bridge itself, which poses a danger to the structure. The neighborhood has done some clearing from time to time of vegetation in the water. K. Gardner-Westcott shared a photo sent by Linda Malenfant of the high water reaching the tops of the arches after last month's significant rainstorm.

T. Largy reports that Sam Bowdoin is coming to visit the lab on Wednesday.

K. Gardner-Westcott reports that she has learned there was no archaeologist present when the dirt was dug at Loker Field. K. Gardner-Westcott has asked Duncan Ritchie for a letter of explanation.

### **Veritas Christian Academy**

Veritas leaders were told by Mass Historical Commission that they should get in touch with us. They sent us plans and the deed search. They have offered to let us do a walk-through of the site. If T. Largy and A. Ciaccio go, it can be a private event and not posted as a public meeting. K. Gardner-Westcott suggested to her contact at Veritas that we might be able to do an educational program at the school on archaeology or the history of the area.

R. Conard says that the link we received from Brad Gardner at Veritas in an email on 12/20 did not work when he tried it.

## **House Plaques**

The 5 Stanton Road plaque is being produced, and there are no other requests at this time.

## **Rail Trail and Railroad**

Nothing new to report about the train order signal at the Depot, nor on the Tower Hill Signal Cabinet wrap.

## **Reports from Other Boards**

Nothing reported

## **New Business**

If funding for lab supplies is approved by Town Meeting, we should be thinking about what we want to use our budget for — a talk at the schools, a speaker or two (house history, Duncan Ritchie on Sand Hill, benefits of a demolition delay), putting the platform back around the Freight House, etc.

**Castlegate Sign:** CPC wants to close out on this outstanding project. We need to decide on sign design soon. A. Ciaccio had gotten and presented cost estimates and design ideas from Fossil. A. Gordon will work with A. Ciaccio to get more estimates.

**HGTV:** K. Gardner-Westcott reported that a crew from HGTV came to film a short piece near Rocky Point where there was once an ice house.

S.A. Bryant asked if we have any archaeological interest in the property next to Donelan's, that is being discussed for development. It is primarily wetlands, and private property.

K. Gardner-Westcott asked commissioners to come to the next meeting with ideas for promoting the repair of Stone's Bridge.

T. Largy reported that Duncan Ritchie has finished the work on the St. Ann's property, and will report his findings after speaking with the Archdiocese.

MOTION: T. Largy moved and B. Carver seconded to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: 7-0 in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon