

Wayland Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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

Present: Sherry Anne Bryant, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Katherine Gardner-Westcott. **Absent:** Brad Carver, Amanda Ciaccio

K. Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Public Comment: K. Gardner-Westcott told the story of Dorothea Dix coming to Wayland in the 1800s to advocate for better care for those with mental illness, and for one Wayland resident in particular, and the history of poor houses in town.

Review of Minutes: MOTION: R. Conard and S.A. Bryant moved and seconded that we accept the amended minutes from February 5, 2023. VOTE: 5-0 in favor

Cemeteries

A. Gordon reported that she and Brad Carver met with Epoch Preservation via Zoom to review details and expectations of the work they will begin this spring. Together, they are working out issues such as invoicing and tracking work. They requested another meeting in late April that includes a DPW representative. It was suggested we also ask if they want storage capacity on site in Wayland.

Archaeology

T. Largy reported on an issue of concern about data entry, and whether data entered from a home computer overrides data already entered. This needs to be further investigated.

Katie Gilbert from Veritas asked to visit the Lab; she has been invited for March 13.

T. Largy expects to write the report on the wood for the train order signal sometime this spring.

Rail Trail and Railroad

R. Conard has written a report about the work to repair and restore the train order signal. David Graf reported to R. Conard that the rest of the parts are on order. R. Conard visited Scott Sweeney at Yankee Lighting Workshop to see the work he's been doing on a voluntary basis on the signal lamp. He had to replace a lot of rusted metal, and hopes to paint it soon.

R. Conard is hoping to meet soon with graphic artist Jonathan Bryant about the Tower Hill vinyl wrap.

The Cultural Council is having a grantee event on March 18 that R. Conard plans to attend.

On March 15, R. Conard will meet with Craig Della Penna of the Norwottuck Network, who wants to discuss a QR marker project along the Mass Central Rail Trail. He is looking for a pilot project.

R. Conard is considering doing a brush clearing event at the Depot in May. A Gordon will help with a flyer. Things are in better shape than this time last year. The knotweed that was left last year near State Road Autobody to serve as a visual screen, has died and fallen to the ground, so it should be removed. He would like to continue to clear the siding area by digging, and is wondering if there is a place to take dirt away from the site. R. Conard will contact Joe Doucette in DPW to ask. He is also hunting for two 14-foot railroad ties, contacting railroad people who might have a lead.

On March 10 the Bedford Historical Society is having a talk on railroad history.

Reports from Other Boards

T. Largy saw in the Patch that there is a ground-breaking at the Community Center on Thursday, March 7.

R. Conard saw in the Feb. 7 Conservation Commission minutes a discussion of building trails at the Community Center and a bridge over the wetlands. When there is digging on town land, departments are expected to notify the Historical Commission so that we can assess whether it may be an archaeologically sensitive area that might require the presence of an archaeologist. The question was raised if there are state or Mass Historical Commission guidelines that could help to support this process. T. Largy will speak with Ed Bell.

T. Largy and K. Gardner-Westcott will plan a visit to the Framingham History Center to return their artifacts.

Signage for Dudley Woods

K. Gardner-Westcott likes signs at the Acton trail, and had sent photos to the Commission earlier by email for consideration.

We need to determine what the signs should include: Geology, Native American history, camps and recreation that the pond has provided. K. Gardner-Westcott expressed a preference for keeping the information about the Dudley Woods area, and not about the entire pond. There is general agreement to keep the signs family-friendly, short, and to refer to deeper information through a QR code.

The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion of possible content.

New Business

There was no new business

Next Meeting: Monday, April 1, 6:30pm

S. A. Bryant and A. Gordon moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon