

Wayland Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019
Conservation Side Conference Room, Wayland Town Building

Present: Katherine Gardner-Westcott, Amanda Ciaccio, Richard Conard, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Elisa Scola

Guests: Mary Antes, Mike Lowery

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes

- Kay moved to approve the minutes from our October 2019 meeting, which had been reviewed previously; Tonya seconded. Vote: 6-0, minutes were approved.

Mary Antes, Selectman

Mary Antes came to review the Selectmen's proposal to restructure the Town Administrator's position into a Town Manager, which will be taken up at Town Meeting in April 2020. The proposal includes:

- Change the name of Board of Selectmen to Select Board
- Strengthen the Town Administrator position and change name to Town Manager
- Make Town Clerk appointed rather than elected
 - To be elected, you have to live in Wayland
 - An appointed clerk need not live in Wayland
- The Selectmen have made a number of presentations to committees and the public
- A public presentation is scheduled for tomorrow night
- The Selectmen are taking notes and collecting suggestions
- Goals of proposal: To have someone with deep knowledge of rules and regulations to guide the volunteers on the Select Board and other committees and commissions
- Will professionalize structure and be cognizant of legal issues and procurement procedures
- The structure would be similar to the schools, where the Superintendent has ultimate authority
- The Select Board would function collectively as a CEO
- The Administrator currently has 22 direct reports
- Currently, Town Dept. heads are responsible to their elected boards; if there is a problem, the Town Administrator doesn't have authority to address it directly
- In addition, there are questions about reporting relationships for groups like the WHC that are not attached to a Town department.
- Concerns about the ways the Town has handled finances, there are too many areas that are not working in a coordinated fashion, e.g., Assessors, Treasurer, Finance Committee, etc.
- Consultants have said Wayland is well managed in spite of its organizational structure, not because of it
- Schools will remain separate, but Town does IT and payroll for the schools
- Similar to the Library, which has a special status. For example, Town Mgr. will have nothing to say about what the library buys.
- Charter commission is elected, they have 18 months to come up with a charter, and then it goes to the ballot.
- The WHC had questions and discussion about various details of the proposal

- Mary will respond to specific questions that were raised around grants, procurement, and other related topics

Bills

- We expected to pay for the Gardescu bench from our budget, but have been told that it cannot come from our budget
- The plaque cannot come from our budget either; a committee cannot pay for a memorial. It should be from fundraising.
- The invoice for Rick Conard's rental of a brush mower in September was submitted to Beth Doucette for reimbursement on Oct. 30, 2019.
- For the past three years he has annually rented a brush mower to clear the area around the tracks; this has not traditionally been maintained by DPW
- Rick has asked if DPW or Conservation owns a brush mower, and if so, who can use it
- Amanda moved that we approve reimbursement of the invoice that Rick submitted; Ann seconded. Vote passed: 5-0; Rick Conard abstained.
- Ann will resubmit the invoice for Rick, and it was recommended that we include this amount in our budget

CPC

- There is a proposal to use CPC funds to improve the Library's ADA compliance
- A comparable project was the funding for sprinklers at 106 Main Street
- Libraries can be exempt from ADA compliance if there is a staff person who can retrieve materials
- There is \$1865 CPC funding left for Castlegate Pillars; this is on hold for the interpretive sign
- Does WHC have any recommendations of projects we'd like to fund?
 - If we create signs for Dudley Woods, funding should be available from Recreation
- We reviewed open CPC historic preservation projects

Housing Authority Requests

- Work on Cochituate Apts. includes roof repair (replacing a rubber membrane) and electrical work that will not damage walls or woodwork. Elisa will give them our permission to go ahead.
- Driveway in back of 132 Commonwealth Road, we will want to monitor whenever they decide to do the work

Programs

- Kay is meeting with Library and Historical Society regarding the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote in 2020. Is the WHC interested in co-sponsoring something? Vote. 6-0 in favor.
- Kay is exploring the possibility of having the apple expert who spoke at the opening of the restored orchard at Heard Farm do another presentation, co-sponsoring with the Library and the Historical Society. Vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed.
- Kay also suggested possibly bringing a lecturer to town on how to do your house genealogy. Motion to look into this, up to \$250. Vote: 6-0 in favor

Railroad and Rail Trail

- Rick reported that the carpentry bid was \$42K for replacing most of the west exterior wall, and electrical was \$10K.
- Ben Keefe has an agreement to buy the train order signal that Rick has identified. Ben is planning to create a scope of work for the signal. Rick has asked to be kept informed of progress on this.

Archaeology

- The Dorey House artifacts are back in Wayland
- Ann will make the Dorey House report public on our website
- Weir Meadow is along the Sudbury River, . Staiano property next door is a registered site, and they want to reposition their house. Many years ago, Ms. Staiano found some significant features on the meadow next door. There is a registered site there.
- Doug Sacra, the architect, reached out to the WHC and would like to meet with us in January for guidance.
- Duncan Ritchie finished his report on Dudley Woods and submitted a digital copy to Tonya. Once she does a full review, we will decide if it should be posted on our website.

Grants

- Amanda and Ann will look into grant applications for a roving archivist

Next Meetings

Our meetings are typically on the second Tuesday of each month. We have moved our start time from 7:30 to 7:00pm.

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon