

Wayland Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2019
Conservation Side Conference Room, Wayland Town Building

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

Guests: Brad Carver, Ben Keefe, Bret Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Approve Minutes

The minutes from November's meeting were not yet available for review and/or approval.

Ben Keefe

Ben Keefe, Wayland's Facilities Director, gave an update on projects he is supervising that are of interest to the WHC.

Library

- Ben asked the Community Preservation Commission for \$485K to improve accessibility at the Library
- It is eligible for CPC funding since it is on the historic register (though not in historic district)
- Funding would address:
 - North emergency door has a 14—18" step down
 - Main entrance level door needs a power assist
 - Elevator stairs are tight, and elevator is small
 - Lower level: bathrooms, doors
 - Upper level, catwalk is not wide enough
 - Design money to figure out what else is needed
- CPC agreed to fund the north door, lower level door, and design work for \$110K
- The impact will not be significant, north door will require a ramp, which will be made of granite
- Ground disturbance to place the ramp will be about 6-foot square; Ben will talk with Tonya about how to ensure a monitor is deployed
- Plan is to approach CPC for additional funding for the actual work of replacing/renovating elevator and stairs
- A grant may be available to fund some of the work; Ben's office will apply for it

Stone's Bridge

- Specs have been rewritten for the entire bridge; a permit is needed from Corps of Engineers, and those wheels are in motion
- While it is technically the PMBC's project, DPW has taken on supervision of the bridge repair

Depot

- Renovations are done, and it has been painted
- Post for the train order signal was evaluated and is sound
- Ben has made arrangements to buy the pieces of the train order signal, with the exception of a cap piece; he has a possible source for that
- When he has all the pieces the assembly will go out to bid to preservationists

- There are train stations in NH with restored train order signals and Ben knows where they are and could get recommendations from them

Programs

- Suffragists: Kay is researching all the Wayland women who registered to vote in 1920; so far they have 180 women noted on a spreadsheet. The oldest was Mary Heard, 88; there are three women so far who had just turned 21
- There was a poll tax that could be as high as \$5, but it was waived in Wayland for women
- Several ladies registered in Wayland who lived in other towns. Kay is still researching how this was possible.
- There are several programs planned in Wayland to commemorate the centennial, at the COA and one at which Kevin Delaney from Wayland High School will speak
- The Library will show some relevant movies
- A Civics Bee will be held at LSHS on March 8

Rail Trail

- Rick asks: Do we want to do another brush clearing in May?
- Shall we replace some ties on a switch stand behind Wayland Power?
- Extension of Rail Trail in Sudbury: Eversource has wanted to extend power lines west through Sudbury and Hudson, which was controversial with many residents opposing. Three options:
 - Power lines above the ground, along the railroad right of way
 - Bury the lines under the railroad right of way
 - Use local streets and bury the transmission lines under local streets
- State Energy Facilities Siting Board approved option 2
- A year ago Rick had provided some information to Commonwealth Heritage Group, a company doing cultural heritage review of railroad land
- Their report is *Arch Intensive Locational Survey for the Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project*, dated May 2019
- Paul Pennfield in Weston had contacted Chris Haggar in Sudbury to do a walk-through to point out the artifacts
- Rick may observe a Sudbury Historical Commission meeting tomorrow at which Eversource is on the agenda

Archaeology

- Tonya and Amanda are trying to learn the Town's new procedures for ordering supplies
- Anything over \$500 requires a purchase order, through Beth Doucette
- They would like to order plastic artifact bags in three sizes; a storage file for rolled maps; up to \$250
- Motion: To authorize spending up to \$250 on above-named supplies
- Approved: 5-0

Alerts

Spending

- Spending: Beth Doucette wants to be notified when we are planning to make a purchase
- Framingham expert who may speak at the event we are co-sponsoring with the Historical Society may require a fee
- The Historical Society does not pay speakers

- Amanda moves that we offer an honorarium of up to \$150 if it is permissible by the Town. Seconded by Ann. Approved 5-0.

Grants

- We agreed we want to apply for a grant to get a roving archivist.

Metal Detectors

- The Library is now making metal detectors available for loan.
- Metal detectors cannot be used on public property, including cemeteries

Plaque

- Amanda will talk with Beth Doucette to determine how we can pay for the plaque for the Paul Gardescu bench

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.

January 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon