



Minutes of the Historical Commission Deerfield, MA.

Town Offices
May 19, 2009

Members present: Henrietta Kocot, Chair
Jack Cavacco, Vice Chair
Matt Jakutowicz, Clerk
Helen Petrovic
Pat Karkut
Edie Lipp

Absent: Bud Driver

The meeting was called to order by Henrietta Kocot at 6:45 P.M. Vice Chair, Jack Cavacco, read the minutes of the April meeting. After one small correction and one small addition, a motion was made by Helen Petrovic and seconded by Jack Cavacco to approve the minutes of the April 21st Historical Commission minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

Several matters of old business were discussed:

- a. Jack Cavacco clarified that there is no conflict of interest in having one of our members represent the Historical Commission on the Community Preservation Committee since that body is composed of representatives of various town commissions. Edie Lipp cited as verification the listing of Community Preservation Committee members in the Annual Town Report 2008.
- b. Jack Cavacco then initiated a brief discussion of our meeting process. While no vote was taken on this discussion, it was generally agreed that any valid issue brought before the Historical Commission should be discussed and brought to a Commission vote.
- c. Edie Lipp reported that she had met with Tom Scalon, the Town Accountant, and that he agreed to attend this May Historical Commission meeting to explain Historical Commission funding as well as Community Preservation Act funding. Currently the Historical Commission has no funds whatsoever. Unfortunately Tom called Henrietta recently to say he would have to miss this May meeting. We all hoped he would be able to meet with us in June.
- d. Jack Cavacco, who is currently the Historical Commission representative on the Community Preservation Committee, clarified that \$10,000 of CPA funding has been recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for research and assessment of the historical preservation needs of the Tilton Library. Two more bids have come in on

the Library stairs, but work may also be necessary on the Library's gable end and elsewhere. (NOTE: See March 12 memo from the Tilton Library to the Community Preservation Committee stating the Tilton Trustees' intent to revise their original request to include an engineering study "to address any other structural concerns regarding the integrity of the front of the building.")

Jack also clarified that to receive CPA funds, a building like Tilton Library must either (a) be on the National Registry, or (b) be considered of historical importance to the town. The Tilton Library is considered of historical importance to Deerfield. Jack also clarified that the Historical Commission serves only in an advisory capacity in relation to CPA funds; no money comes to any town committee or commission from CPA sources. Projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee must be approved by citizens at the Annual Town Meeting.

- e. Jack Cavacco made a motion and Helen Petrovic seconded it, to reverse the April Historical Commission decision to rescind support of CPA funding for the Tilton Library project. After clarification of the use of CPA funding, this motion passed unanimously. The Historical Commission once again supports CPA funding for the Tilton Library project.
- f. Edie Lipp asked for clarification of the purpose of the photographic inventory to document town monuments and cemeteries. If the intent is simply to have a town record, then digital images may be adequate. If, however, this inventory is for the State (e.g. to apply at some time for grants), then the Massachusetts Historical Commission website says images need to be to their specifications, with photo-quality printing and paper. The Deerfield Historical Commission does not currently have funding for that level of photo image production. Nor do we have the expertise to identify the history and styles of the town's graves and monuments. Jack Cavacco suggested that we start with the digital images and basic inventory data (e.g. referencing grave sites). We can then print images when the need is identified and when funding is available.
- g. Documentation of town monuments and gravesites is mandated on p. 42 of the *Preservation Plan for Deerfield*. Edie wondered if we have resources in Historic Deerfield who might help with historical identification.

New business was then briefly addressed:

- a. Helen Petrovic reported there was no mail this month for the Historical Commission
- b. Jack Cavacco announced formally that he will not be returning to the Historical Commission when his term expires on June 30, 2009. Because Jack serves as the representative to the Community Preservation Committee, the Historical Commission will appoint to a new representative to serve in that role.

Henrietta Kocot made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Karkut. By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. The next meeting of the Historical Commission will be June 16th, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in Room 130 of the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Jakutowicz, Clerk
Deerfield Historical Commission