

Georgetown Historical Commission

Minutes 1/24/17

Attending:

Phil Trapani, Chair
Lou Dispenza, Treasurer, Gloria Swanbon, Secretary
Joe Knapp, Derek Richardson, Ed Desjardin
Georgetown Historical Society Members
Chris Comiskey
Mary Saunders
Rick Detwiller
Joe
Jeff

Prior to beginning the meeting members of the Georgetown Historical Society were welcomed and thanked for joining.

Ed Desjardin was recognized and he informed the Commission that he would be retiring after many years of dedication to the many causes of preservation of historical properties in not only Georgetown but some of the surrounding towns also. Ed has been recognized by the State for his work and dedication. He was praised and thanked most gratefully for all of his efforts and will be greatly missed. As Ed serves as the liaison between the GHS and GHC another person is needed to fill that spot. Phil will try in the interim.

Minutes

Minutes from 11/15/16 were reviewed. Motion to accept by Ed Desjardin, second by Derek Richardson and unanimously approved.

Minutes from 12/13/16 were reviewed. Motion to accept by Lou Dispenza, second by Ed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Lou reported that the budget appropriation of \$1,000 is still available. There is also \$630 in the Donation Fund.

Old Business

School House Estimates

Estimate is \$42,486 to include outside restoration. Bryan did pursue other bids. M & A Architectural Preservation met with Gloria and Ed and will be submitted an estimate.

Request was submitted to CPA committee by Ed and Joe on 1/3/17 and was the application was accepted.

Phil will check for the next meeting and next phase of obtaining actual approval for the project.

Phil designated Gloria as the keeper of the GHC key for the schoolhouse.

Signage for Historical Sites/Maintenance of Sites

Pending review of drafts for additional signs. The project will also include a handbook of the historical sites.

Union Cemetery

Estimate was received for \$49,000 for repairs. Request was submitted to CPA Committee by Ed and Joe. The application was accepted. Another meeting will be held for approval of the project.

Phil to check for date.

Phil to check with Mike to see if another contract is needed or if this is a Phase II continuation of the initial project.

Historical House Survey

Survey of 105 houses is in process. The first payment of \$2800 is due. The invoice was signed and will be delivered by Lou to Mary McMenemy.

Byfield Cemetery

Project completion is pending; Stone and flag installation being overseen by Gary Fowler. No update.

Byfield Veteran's Memorial Park

The site was viewed by Commission members in the fall. Approximately 30-40 rails need to be replaced. An estimate will be obtained (Phil & Derek) to see if our budget will cover it.

Poor Monument (carved rock) on Jewett Street

This was also reviewed by Commission members in the fall and it appears that just some cleaning of the stone is all that is necessary. It is on private property and the owners are maintaining the grounds around it.

GHC will explore further cleaning of the rock.

Camp Denison

A letter was received from Bob Gorton on behalf of Camp Denison requesting assistance in obtaining/installing a sign designating a spot on the grounds thought to be a burial place and house for infectious disease. The actual location is not clear.

Phil will contact Bob and discuss with him.

New Business

Strategic Plan

The GHC is responsible for developing a strategic plan that coincides with the town's. Historical topics in the town plan include preserving the small town character, create historic districts and maximize CPA funds to preserve historical landmarks.

The Historical Society was invited to attend for input and brainstorming. Some long and short term goals were reviewed. It was noted that some are in process as:

- Preserve historical small town character – historic signs & tour guide (education)
- Create historic districts – house survey in process, districts next phase

Suggestions for adaptation by the GHC (some in combination with GHS)

- Increase to 1 yr the demolition delay (6 months currently)
- Establish Bylaws for the GHC
- Develop rules (& post) for Union Cemetery
- Establish an historic document facility which is climate controlled(? Any room left at Perley)

- Establish a memorial at Park & Ride lot for Judith Peabody (? pocket park). Signs to be part of the signage project of historic sites
- Inclusion of Rail Trail in signage project
- Obtain and maintain a list of MHC restrictive deeds so that all are aware of what is allowed
- Annual cleaning and inspection of the school house
- Preserve first period assets in town (1600) (? Of using CPA funds for private homes with addition of deed restriction, Chris to check deed of other property)

The town is using the SMART methodology as a guide to develop the long/short term goals. Phil will slot our suggestions into the form and forward to other members for assistance.

Selectmen's Meeting:

The next Selectmen's meeting is 2/13.

Phil will request a discussion regarding a public cemetery.

Ed will be recognized for his many contributions and years of dedication.

NEXT MEETING:

2/21/17 – 7pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35pm

Submitted by:

Gloria Swanbon, Secretary