

Georgetown Historical Commission

Minutes 7/26/16

Attending

Phil Trapani, Chair

Lou Dispenza, Treasurer, Ed Desjardin, Joe Knapp, Bryan Benoit, Derek Richards,
Gloria Swanbon, Secretary

Minutes

Minutes from 6/14/16 were reviewed and amended as to dollar amount in the GHC Donation Fund. Amount corrected from \$625.00 to \$630.00.

Motion to accept with amendment by Ed, seconded by Gloria, and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

The GHC Donation Fund has a \$630.00 balance.

The GHC General Account has \$1,000 to begin the new year. The \$12.00 left from the previous fiscal year was left in the town's general fund.

Motion to accept by Joe, seconded by Gloria, and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Commission Appointments

Phil was appointed as an alternate member as the selectmen have not received a formal letter of resignation from George Perkins. Joe Knapp has been working with George to provide information to the selectmen. Should be finalized by the next meeting.

Pending action by George Perkins and the Board of Selectmen.

Tenney Street

There is a sign posted as "Sale Pending". The 6 month demolition delay expires on 8/25/16. There should be more information at the September meeting.

School House Estimates

A local painter will be looking at it sometime in the coming week. Arrangements have been made for an exterminator to look at it also.

Report and/or estimates to be at the next meeting.

Congregational Church Contract

Joe has met with Mike regarding language recommendations suggested by the Commission. The Mass Historical Commission may also need to approve as building is in MACROS. Documents in the hands of Town Council.

Signage for Historical Sites

Phil is working with 2 students who are interested in graphic arts. They will assist in the design of the signs.

Union Cemetery Landscaping

Project is on hold until Peter Durkee's schedule allows.

Gravestones – many are in need of repair and repositioning. It is estimated that there are: 83 leaning, 27 broken, and 40 needing to be mounted on bases. It was suggested that members meet at the cemetery sometime in August to flag those stones needing attention.

Historical House Survey

Joe reported that the price has increased since the last contract so 10 properties will be removed from the survey; 105 properties are to be included. There are 23 houses to be surveyed to complete the Village Area. There are 78 other properties plus 4 culturally significant sites. The properties are selected by date of origin.

Motion in favor of the agreement between the Town of Georgetown and K Grover Historic Associates to complete surveys of old properties was made by Phil, seconded by Ed, unanimously approved.

Phil to forward to Mike.

Byfield Cemetery

Funds are now available to install the flag and monument. Peter will be asked to purchase both the flag pole and monument. Gary Fowler will be asked to provide the information for the monument.

Motion made by Joe, seconded by Ed, and unanimously approved.

Digitizing Library Papers

A bill was received from the library director in the amount of \$2,943.29.

Motion to approve was made by Derek, seconded by Gloria, and unanimously approved.

New Business

Plan Use of Funds for Coming Year

Historical Sites – Phil to send the power point to members for review. An estimate for maintenance needs will be developed. A working meeting was suggested on Saturday 8/27 at 8am in the Town Hall for review.

Union Cemetery Gravestones – repairs noted as stated above. Commission feels that this should be a request for CPA funds for next year.

Camp Denison

The area was the site of an old farm in the 1700's as documented in the History of Essex County archives. It was the site of a small pox outbreak resulting in many deaths. It is noted that several victims were buried near the foot path leading to the lake. It was recommended that the GHC request a grant from PCA to hire an archaeologist to investigate and confirm.

Ed will begin putting documents together for the grant application.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9/13/16 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm

Submitted by: Gloria Swanbon, Secretary