

# NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013

## Call to Order

A regular monthly meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission was held at the Newbury Town Library on Wednesday, July 17, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:36 PM.

*Members present:* Chris Drelich, Channing Howard, Sue Nagle, Marcia Peirce, and Nancy Thurlow.  
*Member absent:* Bill Towne.

Also in attendance was Chris Horan, potential buyer of the Byfield Yellow School.

## Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the 6/12/13 meeting were presented and approved on a MOTION made by Chris Drelich. Sue Nagle abstained, as she was not present at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. All other members present voted in favor. *The motion carried.*

The draft minutes of the 6/17/13 special meeting were presented and approved on a MOTION made by Chris Drelich. All members present voted in favor. *The motion carried.*

## Reports

### 1. Treasurer's Report

As of July 17, 2013

<i>General Fund</i>	\$650.00
<i>*Gift Fund</i>	\$1,337.78
<i>*Special Article Fund</i>	<u>\$6,068.50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,056.28</b>

\*Treasurer's note: *The Gift Fund and the Proceeds from the Special Article (coin sale) are two separate accounts in the town treasurer's ledger, so I've pulled them apart here for clarity. Neither of these line items' funds expire.*

### 2. Fun Facts

Chris Drelich presented some interesting statistics. Last year, between June 30 and October 21, 2012, we had approximately 161 visitors to the Lower Green Schoolhouse (people that signed the register). During FY12-13, we received \$310.75 in donations and through merchandise sales.

## Correspondence

### Byfield Water District

We were sent a copy of a letter from Edward Bell of the Massachusetts Historical Commission written to Paul Colby of the Byfield Water District, 15 Larkin Road, Byfield regarding approval of Redundant Well PW-5 Project. Letter will remain on file for future reference.

## Old Business

### 1. **Plantings next to First Settlers' Monument**

The HC discussed the proposed Alberta Spruce trees next to the First Settlers' Monument and it was decided to look into an alternate, non-evergreen solution for the site.

MOTION: A motion was made by Nancy Thurlow to have the Highway Dept. purchase two Linwood Gold Forsythias (4' height) to plant at the monument.

*The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

### 2. **Historical Commission Membership**

Two residents have come forward with interest in serving on the Historical Commission. At the time of the meeting, Channing had a chance to speak at length with Lon Hachmeister, one candidate, but not Molly Shamas, the other. Channing felt confident that Lon would make an excellent addition to the HC. To aid in the appointment process, the HC felt confident that Channing could make a decision on whether or not Molly should be recommended to the HC after he spoke with her following the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Marcia Peirce for Channing to recommend the appointment of Lon Hachmeister to the Historical Commission; and that, if after an interview, Channing felt that Molly Shamas would be fitting for membership on the Commission, that Molly also be recommended for appointment to the Historical Commission.

*Chris Drelich, Channing Howard, Sue Nagle, and Marcia Peirce voted to approve the motion. Nancy Thurlow abstained.  
The motion carried.*

## New Business

### 1. **Yellow School Preservation Restrictions**

When the town voted to sell the Byfield Yellow School, it did so with preservation restrictions. The Purchase & Sale Agreement has been finalized between the Town of Newbury and Chris Horan, and the time has come for the Historical Commission to approve the preservation restrictions.

Town Planner Martha Taylor had sent Channing the wording of the proposed Preservation Restrictions far ahead of time, and copies were forwarded to all members to review prior to the meeting.

Chris Horan, the potential buyer, spent some time walking the HC through the renovations and upgrades he plans to make. Channing then read aloud the various conditions of the proposed Preservation Restriction as all followed along.

a. **Approving the terms of the preservation restriction**

MOTION: A motion was made by Chris Drelich and seconded by Marcia Peirce to approve the terms of the Preservation Restriction for the Byfield Yellow School as presented to the Commission.

*The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

b. **Accepting the preservation restriction**

MOTION: A motion was made by Chris Drelich and seconded by Sue Nagle to accept the Preservation Restriction as presented to the Commission, to be held in escrow pending execution by the buyers.

*The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Mr. Horan thanked the Commission and expressed his excitement about moving the project forward.

2. **Clarification on “Quorum”**

Channing asked that the following be entered into the official records of the Historical Commission. There has been a lingering question since the reappointment of the HC in November 2011 as to what number of members constitutes an official quorum.

Channing posed the question to Kathy Sirois, Secretary to the Board of Selectmen, on June 13, 2013 and her response was that the Historical Commission quorum is four. He asked how that number was derived but she simply stated again that the quorum was four, so Channing did not pursue the topic further.

3. **Replacement of Lower Green Sign**

Chris Drelich brought to the attention of the HC that he has removed the Lower Green historical site sign due to its heavily deteriorated condition.

MOTION: A motion was made by Chris Drelich to have a replacement sign made for the Lower Green, the cost of which is to not exceed \$100.00.

*The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Chris will oversee the sign replacement project.

4. **Upper Green pond circulation pump**

Chris Drelich also mentioned that he noticed the water in the Upper Green pond was getting brown and stagnant. He remembers a circulation pump that used to run, but seems to no longer be in use. The HC agreed that Chris should talk to Tim Leonard of the Highway Department at his earliest convenience.

**5. Stone Wall Rebuilding at Manter Field**

Channing mentioned that there are a few people rebuilding the stone wall in front of Manter Field on Central Street in Byfield. While the work seems to be of a good quality, the rebuilders are creating a very tightly put together structure, altering its traditional “New England stone wall” appearance. Channing was concerned that they may be taking rocks from other sections of the wall and that there doesn’t seem to be any new rock on the site to make up for what is being used. He will follow up with Joe Story, Chairman of the Selectmen.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Historical Commission was set for Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 6:30 PM **at the Lower Green Schoolhouse**. This meeting will begin with an *Ice Cream Social* to welcome (hopefully) our new member(s). Channing and Chris will coordinate the ice cream and the fixings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Christopher Drelich,  
Clerk/Treasurer

Date of approval