

Minutes of the Princeton Historical Commission
April 16, 2009

Attendees: Joyce Anderson, Sheila Dubman and Alex Fiandaca

New Business:

Everettville

Members discussed seeking a "determination of eligibility" for Everettville as a National Register District. This would require a great deal of preliminary research prior to approaching a historical writer, particularly in terms of boundary determination. It is believed that the boundary extends into Westminster and if so, a joint effort between the two towns will be pursued. Additionally, Leominster State Park is believed to contain cellar holes of early Everettville buildings. Determining the eligibility of Everettville for inclusion in the National Register has been a goal for some time, and in light of the possible reconstruction of Route 140, members feel it is time to start moving toward this goal to ensure consideration of the area during the road planning process.

The Book

Joyce, Sheila and Alex would like to request that \$600 be taken from the PHC budget to buy 50 copies of their recently published book *Princeton - A History of Its Villages*. These books will be sold at 250th events throughout the year and other promotional events. All proceeds will go to the Commission.

Note

Chris Donahue, a Radford Road resident walked in to request information about the Frisbee golf course behind the annex. He would like to offer to clear and chip brush, and spread chips in paths.

Old Business:

West Village

Joyce received notification that the West Village nomination will be reviewed by Mass Historic in Boston on June 10th. Requirements at this stage include a complete list of property owners including vacant parcels, street addresses with assessor numbers, property owner notification by mail, public meeting with MHC and nomination writer Anne Forbes. MHC will post notice of the meeting in the Landmark and at the Library. Sheila will work with Terri Longtime to confirm assessor parcel numbers, names and addresses for West Village.

Joyce and Alex are working with Anne Forbes to re-examine some West Village houses. Histories gathered during the plaque program have been shared with Anne for her use in the nomination.

Accessory Apartment Bylaw

Members agreed to offer our endorsement of the Accessory Apartment Bylaw. The Planning Board has been very gracious in seeking the Historical Commission's advice on this matter and in incorporating our concerns into the bylaw. The Planning Board has also offered to copy the Commission on requests for accessory apartment permits. Sheila will draft a letter of support to the Planning Board.

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Historical Markers for National Register Districts

On Saturday, April 11, public meeting was held to discuss plaque/boulder placement on common.

On Monday, April 13, Joyce presented the historic district plaque project (design, wording, etc.) to the selectmen. Joe voiced support from the public land review standpoint. Selectmen accepted placement of the plaques.

On Tuesday, April 14, Commission members met with representatives from Leominster Monument Co. to look at possible rocks for the Princeton Center District plaque on the common.

Members discussed available funds. Two plaques have been ordered; Meeting House Hill and Russell Corner.

Members also discussed pricing estimates for plaque, rock transport and installation from three sources (Healy Bros., Leominster Monument and Athol Granite). Glen Lyons' has agreed to transport the rock, which will reduce the overall cost dramatically. The best plaque price was from Healy Bros., although a surcharge will apply considering our timeline of May 23rd (20% charge for 3 week delivery, 30% charge for 2 week delivery.) Joyce will check with Leominster Monument to see if they are willing to install the Healy Bros. plaque.

Healy Bros.' have advised against selecting an unfinished bronze plaque. Members viewed the unfinished example in Healy's brochure and discussed concerns over whether our wordy plaque would become illegible over time. Members selected an alternative finish, and will await feedback from all members.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Fiandaca