

Minutes Historical Commission

April 28, 2016

Members Present: Barbara Search(Chair), Richard Volpe(Vice Chair), William Smith, Sandra Fallon(Secretary)

Others Present: Jane Zavistoski and James Zavistoski

1. RV motioned to accept the minutes of March 24, 2016 as written; seconded by WS and all agreed.
2. BS reported of contact with WCM Enterprises. Raised question of who has the authority over the cost of the property in question. 3 questions rose: who owns the property of the Exhibition Hall; would there be someone who would pay if it was moved; could there be more time if it could be moved.
3. Discussion stated the owner has decided not to sell the property. There have been discussions with potential interest groups such as Old Sturbridge Village and the Host. OSV questioned who would pay for any move of the EH. RV asks could there be a tax benefit from the Town of Sturbridge for someone moves the EH.
4. Discussion by members over deconstruction and reconstruction of the building.
5. On April 8, 2016 Jennifer Dougherty evaluated the EH/property. She was hired to do so. Her report is not yet completed. One thing she was doing was submitting it to the Mass. Historical to be on the state Historical Register.
6. Next Steps suggested by BS contact with the Chamber of Commerce to put this information on the EH out to see if other businesses may have an interest.
Get on the agenda for the Town Selectman as way to hear the story and gather support.
7. RV states this is an opportunity for the HC to have future projects such as the current EH one down for procedures in the future.
8. BS going to Finance Meeting later CPC approved \$20,000 for inventory.
9. Discussion brought up if the CPC would approve money to have a foundation put in if the EH could be moved.
10. BS states at a minimum there should be a park with benches and plaques identifying the site. Members agree with this.

RV motioned to adjourn at 6:51 pm; SF seconded all agree.

Next meeting; TBD