

## MINUTES HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Commission Members Attended: Barbara Search, Chair,; Richard Volpe, Vice Chair; Sandra Fallon, clerk; William Smith

Also Present: Marilyn Desy and Craig Semon, T&G reporter

Meeting opened 6:01 pm

1. Motion to accept minutes of January 28, 2016 by RV and seconded by WS.
2. Motion by WS to accept the minutes of February 11, 2016 and seconded by RV.
3. Barbara discussed 3 potential professional evaluators for the Historic Building evaluation that is needed of the Exhibition Hall.
  - A. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission reported they can do it for \$1100.
  - B. Jennifer Doherty who has her own business and did work on buildings in Hopkinton, Ma can do it for \$1000.
  - C. Kristy Poehler, who is working on a doctorate in history, offers the work for \$100.
4. RV motioned a request for \$1100 through the Reserve Fund Transfer to cover whatever decision is made for the evaluation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by SF and with no further discussion passed unanimously.
5. Discussion in regard to Public Hearing on March 10, 2016. Public interest is needed to help determine if demolition would be detrimental to the town heritage. Public hearing to assist with Commission to determine that if the Exhibition Hall is preferably preserved. Further discussion around is the building eligible for the National Register; what is the process?
6. There is 14 days after this meeting to make the determination if the demolition should be delayed.
7. Other business: Pioneer Valley Planning can evaluate 100 buildings for a price of \$20,000. RV will attend the CPC meeting on March 7, 2016 and request CPC funding for the Community Wide Survey.
8. DOT letters in regard to planned work on Rt. 148 and Rt. 20. The Commission has no comment on the micromilling and resurfacing work that is planned as both appear to take place on existing roadbed. The letter re: Rt. 20 expressed concern for decreasing lanes from four to two and the potential for traffic backup in Sturbridge.
9. GAR Flag issue discussed. BS reports that the people in Andover who did the preservation work has it wrapped in cloth and should not be lying flat. Discussion over best way to store; one option build a device that will keep it rolled but lift it off table. Further discussion is needed.
10. As a private citizen BS created a petition to extend the demolition delay bylaw from 6 months to 12 months and to define a historical building as 50 years not 100 years. Warrant closes on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 signatures of registered voters in Sturbridge needed to include as an article on the Annual Town meeting warrant.

**Public Hearing scheduled for March 10, 2016 in the Veteran's Hall at 6:30 pm**

**Minutes recorded: Sandra Fallon**

**RV motioned adjournment of meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by SF**