

MINUTES HISTORICAL COMMISSION

January 7, 2016

Attended: Barbara Search, Richard Volpe, William Smith, Sandra Fallon

Meeting began 6:13 p.m.

1. Minutes from the November 5, 2015 meeting approved as written unanimously. *Minutes from the December 2, 2015 meeting had correction of 2 names that were misspelled. The minutes were then reviewed and accepted as corrected by Barbara Search and the board minus Richard Volpe who abstained.*
2. Discussion over the Community Preservation Committee to preserve the GAR flag Post 173 and a request for \$10,150. Some discussion that \$50,000 is currently available in the CPC budget and new amounts to be added are not known yet.
3. Need to get a start on doing the Inventory in Sturbridge. Request to the CPC needs to be in by January 11, 2016. The request would be \$20,000 to get started. No inventory has been done in Sturbridge in over 40 years.
4. A letter from James Cooper who is Director of New England Hidden Histories discussed his access to records for use in inventories such as church records. Brought up question of Church vs. State issues. This issue will be further researched.
5. The Mass Department of Transportations proposed Rt. 20 project was discussed with the reduction of 4 lanes of traffic to 2 lanes coming in from Brimfield to Sturbridge. Historical Commission discussed that reducing the lanes would have a negative on the town but agrees more information is needed.
6. There was a discussion about the demolition delay process. It is unclear where things are in the process in regard to any Demolition Delay. Once the Building Inspector is given an application there is 7 days to get it to the Historical Commission which then has 30 days any historical significance and include a public hearing. Need to prove the site is Preferably Preserved to have a 6 month delay.
7. The Historical Commission needs to know where in the process are things. A decision was made to send to the CPC for January 11th the following:

At the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Historical Commission, Richard Volpe moved the Historical Commission request to the Community Preservation Committee that they place on the 2016 annual Town meeting warrant a request for funding in the fiscal year 2017 the following projects:

1. A professional inventory of 100 historical sites in the town of Sturbridge. The request is for \$20,000. The town has not done an inventory in over 40 years.