

Minutes of Historical Commission

January 28, 2016

Members present: Richard Volpe(Vice Chair), Barbara Search(Chair), William Smith, Sandra Fallon(Clerk)

Other in attendance: Jacob Ryan, Mike Suprenant, James Cooper

6:08 meeting begins

1. RV moved to accept minutes from January 7, 2016 meeting; SF seconded and all voted in favor of acceptance.
2. James Cooper who is Director of New England Hidden Histories at the Congregational Library in Boston is working on a project to help communities and churches digitize old records; He provided a handout of the history of the Congregational Library and New England's Hidden Histories for review. A lengthy article and his discussion of process and cost to have records digitized along with recommendations and potential future initiatives.
3. Discussion in regard to ownership of the Federated Church Records. Brought up the church vs. state and the records fall within the Community Preservation Committee. There is a proposal for potential cost to have records digitized was given as \$9041 for digitizing records. RV motioned in support of the proposal of the project for digitizing historical records of the Federated Church. The Historical Commission is in support of the digitizing of the Federated Church records and be placed on line for a cost of up to \$10,000. WS 2nd the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.
4. Discussed the GAR Flag Post 173 from last meeting. Further research shows flag is stabilized and that it a ceremonial flag vs. a battle flag. RV motioned to not support further preservation and mounting of the GAR Flag Post 173. This was seconded by BS and the Historic Commission unanimously in favor.
5. BS read letter from World Tech Engineering on proposed work on RT 148. HC is asked to members if there are Historical areas being changed. It looks like the current footprint is within the existing roadway layout and BS will send a letter with comments to that effect.
6. HC received a letter from the building inspector dated c1/21/2016 that an application was received by CVS for a demolition permit pertaining to the Exhibition Hall. There are 30 days to determine if the Exhibition Hall is a significant building. A meeting to be held for determination of this issue. Discussed an Architectural Historian to access data to similar structures for help with determination.
7. Old business HC still requests through CPC \$20,000 to have a professional consultant look at historical sites in Sturbridge.

Next meeting February 11, 2016 at 6pm

At 8:08 pm RV moved to adjourn; seconded BS and approved by all.

Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Fallon-Clerk