

MINUTES HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 24, 2016

Committee Members Present: Barbara Search, chair; Richard Volpe, vice-chair; William Smith; Sandra Fallon, clerk

Others Present: James Zavistoski

1. Review and Acceptance of minutes: RV motioned to accept minutes from 2/25 and 3/17 as written. SF seconded and all approved.
2. BS reports from Building Inspector that the pre-existing nonconforming building (Exhibition Hall) had no code violations during an inspection in the fall of 2015. There is no fault with the structural support; yet, to get it to code for a different purpose could cost \$500,000.
3. BS discussed possible ways to preserve the EH; 1) Save it on site as historical asset, speak to the Selectmen and various committees as to the benefits for the community; 2) find an entity to move, preserve, and repurpose it, i.e. Publick House, Sturbridge Host, OSV.
4. Discussion on the Town and Planning board agendas. BS can talk to the boards needs to get onto their agendas to do so.
5. J. Zavistoski discussed book by Brian Burns and the use of a picture from the Fairgrounds on the cover as a major draw for people to come.
6. B.S. reports the EH is valued at approximately \$1 million and land at less than \$200,000 on town assessor's property card.
There are many references and information in the Town's Master Plan related to historical/cultural resources.
There is no update from Mike Suprenant pertaining to his efforts with MEPA.
7. Action plan is to approach the Publick House, OSV, and the Host about moving the building; and to get on the agenda of the Selectmen and other committees to suggest uses for the EH.

BS motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:55 and seconded by SF; all in approval

Next Meeting: TBD

Minutes: Sandra Fallon