

Town Of Sutton  
Historic Commission Meeting Minutes  
January 20th, 2015

Meeting Started at 7:05 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Keith Downer - Chairman  
Mark Kellogg- Clerk  
Donna Rossio – Member  
Wally Baker -- Member  
Paul Dunn -- Associate Member

**Members Absent:**

Lori Funari -- Member

**Review and Approve Minutes:**

Minutes from the November 2013 meeting were unavailable and will be reviewed at the April meeting.

**No public forum or hearing during this meeting.**

**Old Business:**

*Cattle Pound on Boston Road:* K. Downer visited the site again after the winter, taking pictures to document the conditions. He met with town planner, Jen Hager, and discussed proceeding with repairs. D. Rossio restated her concern that the work needs to be in line with the existing structure. K. Downer will plan to work on the repairs when the weather is good and will alert the group when he plans to do so.

*156 Burbank Road:* K. Downer had reviewed the planning board materials for the proposed break in the stone wall at this location. As this commission was unable to meet due to weather, he did discuss with Jen Hager that the disturbances should be done to retain the character of the wall. The planning board did approve the request to break the wall. Members of the Historical Commission who visited the site had difficulty ascertaining the exact wall and location due to the significant amounts of snow at the time. No one felt there was any historical significance to the wall or location. D. Rossio asked if anyone was aware of who was responsible for clearing brush on walls and roadsides.

**New Business:**

*Miscellaneous:* Board members were given their annual policy review packets for them to read and sign that they understand the policies. Members are to return signature pages at the next meeting. K. Downer noted that the commission annual report for FY2013 was submitted to the town clerk.

*Rufus Putnam Building:* D. Rossio asked if anyone was aware of the current plans for the Rufus Putnam building after hearing the the Board of Selectman (BOS) had discussed moving the building to the former school site on Singletary road. W. Baker indicated that the Sutton

Historical Society (SHS) has approved \$5000.00 for repairs needed to the structure, but that work has not begun. D. Rossio noted that any discussions of moving the structure must be conducted with the rules under federal regulations CFR60(1) Title 36 relating to Historical Registry. The building falls under those regulations and the Sutton and Massachusetts Historical Commissions must approve any changes and move. The proposed new site is within the historical district and that too would trigger a review. The members discussed the notes from the BOS meeting regarding rationale for the move which included improving the structure and creating proximity to the blacksmith shop in hopes of improving attendance at the building. W. Baker noted that the town owns the building, but the SHS owns the contents and is responsible for maintenance. D. Rossio continued her review of potential negative impacts (loss of eligibility for grants, protections etc) if this move was not conducted properly and noted that the lack of awareness is probably more related to lack of activity and not location. W. Baker noted his current status as curator for the SHS and that the lack of activity was related to the current building infrastructure issues. All members agreed the historical commission must play a role in assisting the town with this discussion and any decisions. M. Kellogg will draft a letter to be sent to the town administrator, BOS and cc'd to the SHS.

#### **Roundtable:**

W. Baker noted the Old Sturbridge Village exhibit of Nathan Lombard furniture and items will continue thru the 4th of May. At 7pm on the 8th of April the curator of the exhibit will lecture on the exhibit at the Vallincourt Studios in Manchaug.

#### **Announcements:**

Information on round 20 of the Mass Preservation Grants were in the mailbox, however the 14March2014 deadline has passed.

The commission also received a copy of the town green space update which was given to P. Dunn for review.

The 2013 State Registry of Historical Places was received

The Massachusetts Historical Commission newsletter dated 24March2014 was discussed and info on the listserv maintained by the MHC was provided to members.

Video of the meeting will be available on the Sutton town website ([www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org)) under Sutton TV Online or at <http://www.suttontv.org/index.php?channel=GOVT>

Additional information on the Historical Commission can also be found on the town website at [www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org) under "Boards and Committees or directly at [http://www.suttonma.org/Pages/SuttonMA\\_BComm/historical](http://www.suttonma.org/Pages/SuttonMA_BComm/historical)

W. Baker made a motion to adjourn. D. Rossio seconded. Vote: 5 in favor, no opposed. Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Mark Kellogg, Clerk

---

Keith Downer, Chair