

## **February 21, 2012**

### **Historical Commission Meeting**

The Upton Historical Commission was called to order at 6:40 p.m. February 21, 2012 at the Police Station. In attendance were Chairman Barbara Burke, Joyce Heywood, Jonathan Meagher, Jerry Owczarzak, Cathy Taylor, Ken Wood, and Russ Wood. Also in attendance were associate member, George Patterson, plus Maureen Boyce, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa, and Bill Taylor.

**Minutes of January 17 Meeting:** The meeting minutes were approved unanimously, on a motion by Jerry, with a second by Russ.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry reported the Expense account balance was unchanged from the previous month at \$1,000. The Gift account balance is now \$2,814.15. Jerry noted that the check from Doug Harris was deposited on January 18 to the Gift account, but has not shown up in the account report yet. Jerry also reported the CPA account balance at \$3,000. Barbara noted that she expects to submit a bill for approximately \$415 for supplies at the March meeting.

Ken moved that we dissolve the CPC account. With a second by Russ, and a unanimous vote, the motion was passed.

#### **Other Business:**

**Heritage Park Opening:** Plans were discussed for the opening and dedication of Heritage Park on Sunday, April 15, 2012. Cathy and Jon agreed to design formal invitations, which will be mailed to a list of approximately 50 people, including to name a few, former Senator Augustus, Senator Moore, the John Robertson family, Becky Wetzel, and Ken Casanova. The Upton Selectmen have already indicated that they would like to attend.

Cathy would like to adapt the invitation design so that it can also be emailed and so that flyers can be made to pass out in town. Ken wondered if we should do a "save the date" email notice, as well. Barbara noted that a notice will also be put in the Town Crier and in the Selectmen's minutes. She would like to have reporters from the Town Crier and the Milford Daily News in attendance. She also reported that the sign for the park will be ready by the opening date.

Other plans include having guest speakers who will be invited to speak from 10 to 20 minutes and offering guided tours of the park. The park paths should be mowed and Barbara hopes to have them filled in with gravel or pea stone by the opening date so that the park will be completely open for all to walk and see on their own as well.

It is also hoped that there can be a picnic area set up by April 15 with picnic tables. Joyce asked that since picnic tables and mowed area were not part of the original design of the park (in order to keep maintenance levels low), who would be responsible for their maintenance, as well as the trash maintenance that a picnic area would require. Jerry indicated that the town should take that on, although it has not been discussed with them yet.

Regarding mowing of the park outside of the picnic area, Marcella felt that mowing or cutting should take place annually or every 2 years. Joyce stated that Garden in the Woods felt that the fields planted with wildflowers should be mowed or cut twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. It was brought up that the town fire chief has suggested that his father from Boylston has an appropriate mower and may be willing to help out with the mowing.

Cathy asked if we should have a school band play, but Barbara stated that she prefers no music in order to promote the tranquility of the area. Cathy also commented that it would be nice to include something in memory of David Mackey. All were in wholehearted agreement with

that thought. Barbara took that time to let us know of the beautiful thank-you note that David's wife sent us for the pointsettia that we sent her in David's memory.

George suggested that we should have some kind of seating and perhaps a tent in place for the day in case of rain. Barbara let us know that, "It won't rain!" but all thought a tent would be a good idea, just in case.

Cathy asked if we plan on doing any plantings before, and for, the opening. We do have money already donated for that purpose. Joyce reminded us that we had previously discussed the need to begin plantings as soon as possible along the boundary line between the park and the neighbor's property (Bonnie's) in order to develop an area of privacy between the 2 areas, stating that arbor vitae was a suggestion made by the consultant from Garden in the Woods.

Another area needing to be planted as soon as possible is the area along the brook that is near the chamber. Both Mike Penko and the Garden in the Woods person have suggested native blueberry bushes for that area to help keep the knotweed at bay. Barbara felt that we should get input from landscape designers.

Ken and/or Cissy Henderson know(s) of a landscape design architect(s) who might be willing to assist [Joyce's note: I'm not sure from my notes if there is 1 designer that Ken knows and 1 that Cissy knows, or if it is only 1 person.] Ken will speak with the designer and moved that if the designer accepts our request, he will do a park walk through with him within 3 weeks. The motion was seconded by Russ and passed unanimously.

Jerry let us know that there is one brush pile that needs to be burned before the opening. He has pulled a permit to burn on Saturday, February 25 at 10 am. He will reschedule if there is inclement weather.

Barbara would like a booklet done that can be passed out that would include research, contributions received, and a list of people who have volunteered their time and efforts to Heritage Park.

There being many other items on the evening's agenda, we decided to have another meeting on March 6 at 7 pm, before our regularly scheduled meeting later in the month on March 20, in order to go over and finalize plans for the park opening.

**Heritage Park – Cissy Henderson:** Barbara updated us on Cissy's plans and ideas regarding plantings in the park. Cissy would like to have a house tour of historic homes in Upton in November to raise funds for the park plants. She is willing to coordinate and arrange this with homeowners. People would tour in groups. People who have some knowledge of the homes would need to accompany the tours for security reasons. Cissy would like the Commission to get sponsors to put ads in the booklet that would be done for the tours.

**Update on Reports Regarding the Cave:** Cathy reported that David Gutbrod has found a company that is willing to make a 3-D (laser) image of the cave. She also indicated that we are still waiting for the archaeology report.

**Scenic Roadway Bylaw - Bill Taylor, Marcella Stasa, and Mike Penko:** Bill made a presentation in hopes that the town will adopt a Scenic Roadway bylaw, which is allowed by state law. The purpose of the bylaw is to protect trees and stonewalls along designated roads throughout town from being destroyed or altered without input from the town. Nothing else is covered by this bylaw. Under the bylaw, roads can be nominated by any one of 3 town boards: the planning board, the conservation commission, or the historical commission. The planning board would hold any hearings and is the ruling board.

Marcella and Bill submitted a list of proposed streets. Some of the streets included are: Chestnut, Christian Hill, Mendon, North, Old Grafton, Ridge, Walnut, and Warren (High to Fowler). To that list, Barbara suggested that "Glenview (Prospect to 140)" be changed to include

all of Glenview – “Glenview (East St to 140).” Jerry thought that “Mechanic St (Fowler or Orchard to North)” should change to “Mechanic St (Meadow to North).”

Mike stated that the idea of this kind of bylaw is included in the town’s master plan. He indicated that the open space group has approached the planning board about the bylaw and that they are in favor of it.

Maureen brought up the fact that it might be easier to designate the whole town under the bylaw, which from her knowledge is allowable. For that, Mike said the open space group would need to go to the planning board again, since that had not been discussed with them. Once that is done, the next step would be to hold an informational meeting, followed by a vote at town meeting.

The Commission was in favor of the bylaw and Barbara thanked everyone for the presentation and input.

**New Business – 3 Prospect St Grinding Stone:** Cathy talked about a grinding stone located at 3 Prospect St that was brought to her attention by Maureen. The new owner of the property would like the stone removed and wants to donate it to the town. Barbara informed us that the property was **formally** owned by Taylor Lyford, who collected many artifacts from Upton and elsewhere. It was felt that the stone may not be an original Upton artifact, but may have been brought to the spot by Taylor. Maureen and Cathy added that the new owner of the property, who is lives further up Prospect St, has a much larger grinding stone on her property that seems much to large to have been moved there in recent times. No definite decisions were made regarding the stone at 3 Prospect, but it was generally felt that it might be better off staying where it is, as if it were to be moved to the park, it would be subject to theft or vandalism.

There being nothing further, the Commission adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**Joyce Heywood**