

February 19, 2015
Historical Commission Meeting (approved with changes March 26, 2015)

The Upton Historical Commission met at 7 pm on February 19, 2015 at the Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room. In attendance were Chairperson, Cathy Taylor; Vice-chair, Joyce Heywood and Treasurer Howie Glassman. Also joining us as guests were Derek Mager and his mother.

Minutes of January 15 & February 4, Meetings: The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Howie reported an expense account balance of \$635.88 and a gift account of \$3,721.86 have not changed since the last meeting.

Other Business:

Derek Mager Eagle Scout Project, UHP Phase 1: Derek updated us on the status of the coming Spring planting project for Upton Heritage Park. He is working closely with TJ Sullivan, who owns a local landscaping business. Multiple soil samples were taken and sent to UMass Center for Agriculture for analysis. The report showed that soils in the park are deficient in Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium and calcium. Discussed outstanding issues including; soil additions, local watering source (aka Water buffalos), scouts plans to provide additional labor/manpower, scheduling the 2nd weekend in April as the tentative Phase 1 planting date and clarification of committed Risteen (Beautification Fund) financial resources. Cathy has agree to send a letter to Blythe regarding how to utilize Risteen funds for the project. It was agreed that we would reconvene at our next schedule meeting on Thursday March 4th to finalize plans.

2 Grove St Property: This property is one of the oldest commercial buildings in town and is located in the recently approved Upton Historic District and should be viewed/designated as a "Contributing Historical Property". Discussed recent Feb 11th Special Town Meeting and approved vote for town to purchase this property in order to create more parking spaces for the Town Hall. It was unanimously agreed that a letter should be drafted to the BOS stating our position as caretakers for historical assets in town regarding reservation or use of this property.

Board of Selectmen Meeting: Historical Commission Funding and Upton Historical Society/Upton Historical Commission Presentation. We agreed to review our notes regarding UHC Finances and any outstanding issues. In addition, Cathy drafted an informational paper for the Upton BOS and co-presented along with the UHS during a recent Cable TV broadcast.

Historical Commission Office and Bronze plaques for North St. #5 Schoolhouse Preservation Project: Discussions are in process on a new office phone line which will be paid for by the town. Our Personal computer in the office is over 10 years old and unreliable for storing important information at this point and needs to be replaced with a new model. Russ Wood is currently looking into status of the District #5/#6 bronze plaques which might have been previously purchased a while ago.

Historic Preservation Plans For Older Burial Grounds: This subject was briefly reviewed. In order to keep up with our goal of preserving Upton's two historical burial grounds we hope to be able to have a historical land survey done. This is something recommended by Mass Historical. The survey would include land surveys, prime deed research, assessment of grave stones, along with a preservation management plan for both cemeteries. Previously we have confirmed that the CPA – Historic Resource Reserve currently stands at \$74,544.80. A proposal that includes goals, timeframe and funding will be completed going forward.

- Howard M. Glassman