

**April 16, 2015**

**Historical Commission Meeting (minutes approved with no changes May21, 2015)**

The Upton Historical Commission met at 7 pm on April 16, 2015 at the Town Hall, lower level meeting room. In attendance were Chairperson, Cathy Taylor; Vice-chair, Joyce Heywood; members Howie Glassman, Donna Desjardins, and Ken Picard. Members George Patterson and Russ Wood were absent. The Commission was joined by guests Derek Mager, his parents, TJ Sullivan, and Cissy Henderson, who came regarding Derek's Eagle Scout project.

**Minutes of March 26, 2015 Meeting:** On a motion by Ken, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna, the meeting minutes were approved unanimously with several changes. Changes included three spelling errors and the correction of item IX from "three letters" to "one letter." Also updated were items II, IV, and X to reflect that the votes taken were unanimously passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Howie reported \$3,721.86 in the Gift Account and \$635.38 in the Expense Account.

**Other Business:**

**Heritage Park Planting Phase I Update:** Derek Mager and guests reported that his project is moving along nicely. The date for planting will be May 9 and 10, rain or shine. Ideally, the first day will include all the plantings, with watering and mulching on the second day. Derek has arranged for at least 10 scouts to help with the planting.

Not all the plants that Cissy's plan called for are available, but Cissy is happy with substitutions made. About 75 plants will be placed in total.

Dig Safe will be notified, as required for safety reasons. Compost will be supplied by a Mendon company and a water buffalo, perhaps two, will be provided by the Upton Fire Department for watering, which is crucial in the early stages to help the plants get established before winter. It was suggested that the Commission buy 2 hoses to keep in the shed for watering.

Total estimated pricing for the phase I plantings is \$5,200, which includes a discount from the nursery. The cost will be split as follows: \$4,000 from the Risteen fund and \$860 from Historical Commission donations earmarked specifically for plantings. Cissy Henderson generously offered to make up any difference. The Commission unanimously approved the \$860 on a motion by Joyce, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken.

Donna offered to write an article for both the Town Crier and Upton Daily about the phase I project. The article should include "before" and "after" photos of the park. On a motion by Ken, which was seconded by Howie, the Commission unanimously approved the news release.

**Heritage Park CR (Conservation Restriction) Update:** The Commission had a lengthy, unresolved discussion of the latest CR draft, as submitted by Town Counsel. Counsel inserted new wording based upon the input from the 3 letters received from the Native American tribes, most specifically the Narragansett Tribe. There is presently wording to give tribes consultation concerning preservation, restoration, or repair for "ceremonial stone structures." The tribes have requested supervision of these activities. The Commission was divided on support of that wording.

Another point of discussion involved what group would have enforcement rights of the CR in general and specifically regarding the "ceremonial stone landscapes." The town counsel draft gives that right to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, stating that the Mass Historical Preservation offices will have, "discretion to determine the appropriate course of action." Cathy

checked with Ed Bell of Mass Historical, who states that they are not comfortable being involved with the ceremonial landscapes and cannot oversee it. They feel that is an area for the tribes only, as only the tribes can define what is ceremonial. Ken agreed to check with Blythe and maybe Town Counsel about how best to resolve the wording of the 2 above issues.

The Commission also discussed whether to add more information to clarify the term, “view shed.” Cathy agreed to work on this further for our next meeting.

**Update on 2 Grove St & Demo Delay Bylaw Workshop:** Regarding 2 Grove St, Ken reported that the town is in the process of relocating the tenant before the building can come up for any demolition.

Cathy reported that the Commission has 2 attendees reserved for the demo delay bylaw workshop to be held on May 6 in Springfield, MA. It is planned that Cathy and Joyce will go, but Howie expressed an interest also. If Howie can go, Cathy will give up her reservation.

**Mass Archaeology Day:** We have confirmed a date of Oct 24, 2015, from 9 to 12 noon for Mass Archaeology Day. There will be 4 speakers. Room rental at Nipmuc High School is \$170.

**Historical Commission Office Update:** Cathy purchased a phone and answering machine, as discussed at a previous meeting. On a motion by Ken, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie, the Commission voted unanimously to reimburse Cathy \$49.99 for the cost of the items.

**Open Meeting Law Certificate of Receipt of OML Materials:** Joyce brought up the topic of the Open Meeting Law Certificate of OML Materials, which she noticed on the State Attorney General’s web page. It may be that the Commission and the Town of Upton are in violation of this part of the OML. The website has a certificate that each member of any town government body must sign and the town must keep a copy of it on file. Ken took Joyce’s printout of the certificate and will check with Town Counsel about it and report back.

There being nothing further, the Commission adjourned at 9:13.

**Joyce Heywood**