

Upton Historical Commission Meeting

June 18, 2015

The Upton Historical Commission (UHC) met at 7 pm on June 18, 2015 at Town Hall upper level meeting room. In attendance were Chairperson, Cathy Taylor members Donna Desjardins, Howie Glassman, Russ Wood and George Patterson. Vice –chair Joyce Heywood and Jim Brochu were absent. The Commission was joined by guest Ellen Arnold, member of the Friends of Upton State Forrest.

Minutes of May 16, 2015 Meeting : On a motion by Howie with a second from George , the minutes were approved unanimously with changes.

Treasurer's Report: Howie reported \$ 3503.97 in the gift account and \$ 583.56 in the expense account. It was reported that UHC owes \$66 for the PO Box. It was motioned by Russ with a second by George and voted unanimously to release funds to cover this expense. It was also reported that the plantings at Heritage Park totaled \$ 4,172.50 of which \$ 3,995. is to be paid by the Risteen Fund .

Other Business:

Ellen Arnold: Ellen shared with us that DCR was paying for the installation of the commemorative plaque at the Upton State Forrest. Also, Ellen offered the UHC insight on the town's cemeteries

Cemetery Proposal : Barbara Donohue's proposal for First and Braddish Cemeteries . We are waiting for another proposal from Peter Flinker and need to request another proposal. Although this work is state-mandated, the feeling was that \$ 23,000 was too high and the value may not be there.

Heritage Day: October 3, 2015 is the date . We discussed a booth however we thought the impact was disappointing in previous years. We discussed tours of heritage Park from 10-12 on October 3rd .

Pottery Sherd: Still no news on locating this important piece of history. Cathy will request access to our records so we may start with an inventory of the assets of the UHC. This may be useful for our tours on Heritage Day.

Gate at Heritage Park - Based on requests of the neighbors of HP and to reduce the risk of vandalism, it was decided to research the possibility of installing a gate . This would restrict vehicle traffic to day light hours only. Boulders could be used to deter vehicles from driving on the lawn, around the gate to access the park when closed . George contacted Chief Bradley. Chief Bradley got right back to George. He was very helpful and offered to lock the gate every evening while his officers were on patrol. Chief Bradley suggested that George contact John Johnson to discuss the opening of the gate each morning. George is still waiting to hear back from Mr. Johnson.

OSL Article : Cathy was pleased to report that an article on OSL was recently published . Cathy co-authored the article with Fred Martin and Shannon Mahan.

Conservation Restriction for Heritage Park : When the UHC discussed the Selectmen's request for a joint meeting , it was agreed that was insufficient time to prepare for this meeting . Additionally , there were differences of opinion on the draft . We were still waiting for a response from Irene DelBono and Edward Bell . Ed has concerns with the draft proposed by the town attorney . Cathy will follow up with them . Cathy provided examples of CR drafted and accepted by other towns (Lakeville and Leverett) .

The UHC unanimously agreed that this process had gone on far too long . We all agreed to follow the Sweet William Farm CR as a precedent. We will dedicate our next meeting to working on the CR.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm

George J. Patterson