

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2013

Attendees: Sheila Carel, Rick Conard, John Dyer, Tonya Largy, Elisa Scola, Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Guests: Werner Gossels, Mike Lowery

Chairperson Elisa Scola called the meeting to order.

1. Report by Werner Gossels on the historic significance of the Wayland-Sudbury Septage Facility: John Dyer gave a brief introduction. The Septage treatment facility is an example of history being created in real time. John was also on the Planning Board for the town and the Operations Review Committee, with Werner. The facility was closed/decommissioned in 2009. John and Werner Gossels discussed the history of the facility.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Wayland was a leader in conservation, clean water, and taking care of their own septage. Conservation was a consensus in town. There were acquisitions approved each year at Town Meeting, and the town was reimbursed for half of the purchase. Wayland was a large lot, low density style town. The idea grew as the town wanted large lots, green areas, and septic systems were part of the large lot thinking. Sudbury was a similar town and the two towns worked together on a combined plan.

In the early 70's, Sudbury and Wayland commissioned a study for a septage treatment facility. Most places had sewage treatment, not septage treatment. In 1978, it cost \$750,000. to design and build. An Operations Review Committee was established. A small engineering firm from New Hampshire designed and built the plant. Funding for 92% of the cost came from federal and state money/grants.

The facility worked well for 25 years. The idea was to run the facility with minimal people (3), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It was licensed for 25,000 gallons per day, and was the only plant of its type. The plant did not take money from either town and closed with a \$300,000 surplus at the end. The closing was political and partially due to more stringent standards, which required upgrades of \$300,000. At the time, there was a recording error, and the town had three other large items that raised questions with the State DEP: the high school, town center, and Raytheon.

The Wayland-Sudbury Septage facility is an excellent example of a success story of collaboration between two towns, innovative technology which met the needs of the towns, and at low cost. This accomplishment needs to be chronicled for the future. Werner reported that he gave his records to the Wayland Town Clerk, who put the records in the vault.

Elisa or John will contact Gretchen Schuler regarding a historic building designation. Sheila mentioned the idea of having an oral history report made by John and Werner. John and Werner will follow up with WayCam. Elisa asked if anyone was taking photos before the building is demolished. There was discussion of plaque in recognition of the facility. There was a previous plaque for the Operations Review Committee. They will check to see if this plaque is still there. If so, have it removed and stored temporarily in the Archaeology Lab for safekeeping.

John Moynihan to be asked to check and see if ORC plaque is still there. Discussion as to permanent placement, possibility of mounting on a large rock at the site. Also could be part of Wayland 375. We need to be aware and document what is going on around us.

2. Minutes of the February 11, 2013 meeting were approved as amended.

3. Public Comment: Mike Lowery mentioned the following:

- would like the agenda to be on the website. It was submitted, but did not appear.

- Septage Treatment plant was significant

- The Wayland Historical Society presented a talk on the old high school. Mike made a DVD copy and talked about digital storage. John will pursue putting this on the website.

- The Dudley Chateau also comes to mind with its colorful history.

John suggested inviting Ann Knight and the Historical Society to talk about how to preserve history. Also, talk to Kevin Delaney, a Wayland High School history teacher. Concerns about historical information being digitally stored as technology advances. There was an article regarding the Wayland schools, back in a 1960 Life magazine.

- Environmental topics and the role of conservation in town (Raytheon clean up, DOW Chemical site, Septage facility, Watershed Conservation Act)

4. Update on status of WHC high school book prize: (Gretchen)

Gretchen Ryder Sharry shared the email reply she received from Kevin Delaney (History teacher, Wayland HS). There presently exists a book prize, the Wayland Historical Commission Local History Prize, which is given to a Senior each year. It was established several years ago. The WHC agreed to keep the award as is. Gretchen will let Kevin know.

The email also mentioned the possibility of meeting with US History teachers to discuss ways to engage students in a local history project as part of Waylands 375th. John Dyer said he would also like to be included. Gretchen will email Kevin back.

John mentioned the Lydia Maria Child Award and the Freedom Prize.

Tonya mentioned the WHC page on the town website is hard to maintain. Elisa will follow up with the town IT person.

5. Archaeology Update: (Tonya)

1) Report on collection from Heard Pond site: The collection was from a BU class and was given to WARG. US Fish and Wildlife says one of the collections belongs to them. The collections need to be photo documented and inventoried. Needs to be a decision on who will store them. WHC agreed to turn the collection over to US Fish and Wildlife, hopefully to be housed at U Mass-Boston.

2) Progress on Scope of Work: Tonya has drafted and emailed to Elisa a scope of work on the DPW site. John Moynihan and Sheila have given comments. Mike Lowery has talked to the DPW Director. DPW is receptive to working together. Comment made that a ceremonial survey is different from a subsurface survey.

3) Update on Greenways site:

Beth Gula, SVT intern, said at a 3/27 meeting that the group is going to plant native plantings to support and help prevent the erosion.

6. Update on status of request for ceremonial and archaeological study at site of new DPW access roads: (Sheila)

There is a quote from Doug Harris, and study has been sent out.

7. Railroad Update: (Rick)

There is a Rail Trail committee meeting on Thursday night.

Tonya met with Bill Petri. There is no disturbance of ground for going through Cow Common.

8. Wayland 375 Update: (John)

The Cookbook should be out by Mother's Day. A parade is scheduled for June 2014, separate from the Memorial Day Parade. The route has not yet been determined. Opening activities are scheduled for June 15th and 16th. Most will be held at the Cochituate Ballfield. Some activities are music, a bon fire, and a barn dance.

Wayland Walks is meeting with Brendan Decker to capture trail maps.

Questions raised: When public funds are used for sensitive archaeological sites, does this make the location public information? WHC needs to talk with Town Counsel. Specific criteria to not divulge is needed. How to find balance between sharing and not divulging? Sheila will send an email to Fred Turkington asking to have the Town Counsel look into these areas.

Wayland 375 is getting cost estimates on a program book. It would be distributed by the Boy Scouts, one per household.

9. Historic Homes Update: (Elisa)

Review of Schuler request to register Reeves Tavern with National Register Program: WHC supports this request.

Sheila raised question about the old stone house behind Finnerty's. It is possible that the stones came from the grange.

10. New business and other items not identified prior to submission of the agenda:

Mike Lowery to send information regarding gravestones.

Next meeting: April 8, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Wayland Historical Commission