

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2013

Minutes as approved and amended

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

Guests: Maureen Maas, Jerry Heller (CPC Chairperson)

Chairperson Elisa Scola called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes of the September 9, 2013 meetings were approved, as amended.

2. Public Comment: (Jerry Heller)

Jerry Heller, Chairperson of the CPC, handed out a Q & A information sheet regarding The Lincoln Road Fields, and asked for support from the WHC. The Lincoln Road Fields are a 22.6 acre parcel on Lincoln Rd that has been farmed, is a natural habitat for animals, is accessible, adjacent to SVT land, and is open land. They are hoping to preserve this space and the owners have agreed to a Conservation Restriction. The CPC will need a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting to approve use of CPA funds for the acquisition of the Conservation Restriction on the land.

Sheila and John asked if the stone walls were included in the protection. Answer: yes.

Motion for WHC to support the Town Meeting article to approve CPA funding. Motion passed.

3. CPC Update including North Cemetery and stone bridges: (Elisa)

Question to Jerry Heller regarding funding for historic bridge repair and how much money is in CPC account. Approximately \$900,000 left in CPC account. It was suggested to the WHC to make a list and prioritize projects for which they would request funding. WHC needs to get more estimates for specific costs on bridges.

John Dyer spoke to Tom Conroy regarding the bridges and funding. He said he would look into it. Elisa spoke with Tom Siacca, who is following up on the debris/brush removal with Framingham and the \$2500 grant. The safety of the bridge could be a liability for the town.

WHC needs to get more estimates for repairs at the North Cemetery for CPC.

4. Review of Archaeological and Ceremonial Landscape Surveys of DPW site:

Partial Confidential Report was received from PAL (The Public Archaeology Lab, Inc). WHC members should share copy and read.

Discussion as to need for statement to the public stating that the mission is to preserve cultural resources. Statement should come from the Bd of Selectmen. Elisa and Sheila to draft and propose statement for the Bd of Selectmen to issue to the public.

5. Railroad Update: (Rick)

Rick has received a few emails from the Rail Trail group. Funding from the Town Center for section of the rail trail will become available once a specific percentage of building is complete. Should be getting close to that.

Discussion as to priorities if money is available: 1) immediate priority is archaeological survey of engine house site. 2) Excavate, preserve, and maintain site.

History of site: engine house built in 1887, discontinued in 1918, taken down in 1936. Elisa suggested to have name of archaeologist in mind for when money becomes available; may need to get bids for work. The previous PAL report was deleted from the website a few years ago. Rick has a hard copy, will give to MaryAnn DiNapoli to scan onto web site.

John mentioned the Sudbury Foundation. The Foundation gives out money, a possibility to look at for partial funding or a study.

Mention made to put railroad on list for CPC funds.

6. Wayland 375 Update: (John)

Talk by Tonya last Saturday was very well attended. Other events include the Five House Tour last month, a Concert, and the Pow Wow.

Upcoming events include the Wayland Walks Program (wild, edible food, the Veteran's Day program, and an Open House at the Islamic Center.

John mentioned that the plaque is still mounted in the Septage Facility building. John will talk to John S to get it extracted, and store it in the archaeology lab until a permanent home placement is found.

Discussion of possible signs identifying Wayland history. Suggestions included: the Mansion Inn site, Cochituate Ballfield, speak easieis, shoe factories, the freight house, Castle Hill Rd, the clay pits. Decision to focus on Cochituate area for Wayland 375.

7. Archaeology Update: (Tonya)

Tonya gave a lecture at Wayland High School today and shared the Castle Hill artifacts. Tomorrow she will meet a Wayland HS group to sift (an archaeological dig field trip).

The lab is mostly settled back in, with the new shelving. The floor replacement was delayed, and the asbestos floor is still there, with mats over the old flooring.

In the archival pilot project, Duncan Ritchie has started with six boxes from the Sand Hill site.

It was also mentioned that the areas of previous digs have not been backfilled. This needs to be done.

Tonya received a bill for the room custodian for her 375 talk. Will submit for payment.

8. Discussion of Castlegate pillars restoration:

The pillars are an original part of the Mansion Inn. They have H's and Y's on them for Harvard and Yale. There was mention of the possibility of moving them back from the road, so they are not hit by snow plows.

9. New Business and other items not identified prior to submission of the agenda: (Elisa)

Mass Memories Road Show is coming. The first meeting is October 23rd, 7-8 PM. John will attend.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7th at 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Wayland Historical Commission