

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2014

Minutes: (approved as written, 9/10/14)

Attendees: Rick Conard, John Dyer, Tonya Largy, Mike Lowery, Elisa Scola, Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Guests: Jen Koeller, Gretchen Schuler, Larry Kiernan, Phil Schneider, Kevin Murphy, 3 additional guests (Friends of the Rail Trail)

Chairperson Elisa Scola called the meeting to order

1. Minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting were approved as amended
2. Public Comment: None
3. Wayland 375: (John)

Price of granite signage is in the \$3000-\$4000 range. Discussion of different types of plaques, use of large stones with bronze plaques, noted that bronze is frequently stolen. There is a meeting tomorrow night (6/5), at which there will be a treasurer's report.

4. Railroad Update:

Larry Kiernan of the Rail Trail group shared an update on the Rail Trail project, along with some pictures and graphics. It is a partnership with the town. DCR has done a lot of work and have worked with the MBTA. Expect to start building the stone dust path in summer 2014. Later when the funds become available, cover with hard pavement from Russells to the Depot. Any extra funds will go toward a railroad interpretive site. Later, there will be a stone dust path to the Weston and Sudbury lines.

WHC raised the question and concern about how much of the existing track will be saved. WHC would prefer to save a longer length of track. Larry stated that the DEP recommends "capping" to encapsulate contaminants. If we want to keep the track, we need a 3 phase environmental study, even in the historic district. Phase 1 has already been done. Problems with keeping the tracks are safety hazards, contaminants, and the expense to maintain. The finished bike path (and railroad interpretive site) will have a lot of traffic.

Larry shared a presentation board showing the proposed lay out, ariel view, indicating where people have made "cut through" walking paths. He also shared a letter from the BETA group regarding safety concerns.

Elisa stated that the WHC would like to save the tracks in the area from Rt 20 to Millbrook Rd where the double tracks are, keeping one set.

Rick shared a handout with examples of preserved track in several other communities, and the Trails with Rails report and website. He has also talked with two people who do environmental reviews and gave the example of the Concord rail trail group.

Gretchen Schuler suggested that we talk about the rail trail in segments-discuss specific pieces as opposed to the global aspect.

Larry asked who was going to provide the ongoing maintenance? He also proposed having an annual discussion/meeting re: the rail trail, tracks, and related issues.

WHC would like to preserve the switches, switch stand, mile posts, whistle posts, and other features of the railroad.

Mike Lowery mentioned that the Board of Health is responsible for health concern. Discussion as to width of the bike path. DCR recommends a 10foot width, but 12 feet is better.

Elisa shared her draft copy of a letter to Sarkis Sarkisian, Town Planner, from the WHC re: preservation of the tracks and other surviving railroad items. WHC discussed, voted and approved the letter.

5. Archaeology Update: (Tonya)

Tonya has not received a response from John Moynihan re: RFP, but she will try again. Stones in the North Cemetery have been pushed over, and this has been reported. In regard to internet connection in the lab, the Town does not want to use a WIFI internet connection router, as Mike Lowery suggested. Tonya and Mike met with Leisha Simon, Technology Director, and gave her a tour of the lab. Leisha said she would get back to Tonya and Mike regarding an internet connection. Tonya mentioned the possibility of overseeing another Eagle Scout project.

The price to purchase artifact cases is approximately \$300. Motion made and approved unanimously (6 yes, 0 no) to purchase the cases. Motion made and unanimously approved (6 yes, 0 no) for the purchase of a digital camera, as discussed in previous meetings.

Tonya is creating a list of possible speakers for future public talks. One idea was to invite someone to explain the use of ground penetrating radar for the Sudbury site.

6. Wayland 375 Update continued: (John)

The closing weekend for Wayland's 375th celebration year is next weekend. There will be a Beach Party on Friday 6/13. On Saturday, there will be a parade beginning at the Cochituate Ballfield and going to the Town Bldg, where there will be a celebration. There is also a Barn Dance in the evening. John shared a draft of a commemorative booklet, "Our Journey" that will be posted on the WHC website. WHC members to review booklet for our next meeting. Mike Lowery mentioned a free site on the Cloud for publications to be posted/saved (issuu.com)

7. Historic Homes Update: (Elisa)

The historic home designation sign has moved back to the previous smaller size.

8. Ceremonial Landscape Update: (notes from Sheila)

DPW: Monitor is on site. They are working well together. Possible anvil stone discovered.

MS Woods: In May, Sheila went to photograph the site and found that the area had been compromised (ex. fire circles). Sheila notified the police. Need to discuss the MS Woods site at next meeting.

9. New business and other items not identified prior to submission of the agenda: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ryder Sharry

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