

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2014

Minutes: (approved as amended)

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

Guests: Duane Galbi, Jennifer Koeller, Gretchen Schuler

Chairperson Elisa Scola called the meeting to order

1. Minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting were approved as written

2. Public Comment: None

3. Stone's Bridge Preservation Update: (Duane Galbi)

Duane has been following up with Structures North, the company who did a condition study and repair estimate proposal on the bridge previously. To fix the needed repairs on the bridge is very expensive. Duane asked about the possibility of stabilizing the bridge. Structures North is willing to come out at no cost to review the bridge and propose cost to stabilize. Duane has also spoken to DPW. He would like someone from the Town who is knowledgeable about building to be present when Structures North comes to review the bridge. Sheila mentioned asking Tom Abdella.

The water is fairly low now and you can walk under the bridge. When Structures North previously looked at the bridge, the water was higher. John asked if it was possible to create a diverter along the storm drain. Elisa asked if Duane had asked Structures North about Old Town Bridge. Town Bridge is in better condition. He primarily focused on Stone's Bridge. Stone's Bridge is owned equally by Framingham and Wayland. Duane suggested having the State/someone other than the town own the bridge.

Elisa asked who does the maintenance on Old Town Bridge. Rick answered that it is under state jurisdiction, but inspected by DOT, as it is still used by pedestrians. Paul Gardescu and a group of volunteers did some maintenance/cleaning up as a project a few years back. Town Bridge has been on the Historic Register briefly, but then was removed in the 1970s, as not being historic enough.

Need to find out what kind of money, grants, organization support, etc. is available for repairs. Duane suggested a two step process: 1) stabilize the bridge, then 2) find money to fix.

Sheila suggested contacting the Knox family (Henry Knox descendants), as they may have money and interest in preserving the bridge. Duane asked about CPA funds, what would it cost to stabilize the bridge and what does that entail, and how much to fix the bridge.

Structures North said they would be able to come out to review the bridge during the week, hopefully in September for a site visit. Duane to contact Structures North to confirm a date and get back to WHC (Elisa) with specifics.

4. Railroad Update: (Rick)

Rick stated that there had been several site visits. Sarkis Sarkisian, Town Planner, has been working on the rail trail plan to minimize impact on the Historic District. The trail will follow the south side of the tracks to the turntable pit, then the trail crosses the existing tracks and goes west. No track or rail is to be removed except for 60 ft section to cross over near turntable, within Historic District. This was agreed to at the Historic District Commission meeting. On the freight house side, the proposal is to keep intact the siding track to Millbrook Rd, but main track to be removed as there is not enough space for rail trail if main track is left. Sarkis now needs to apply to the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation for a license.

Gretchen Schuler said that DCR wants a letter from HDC. Wayland HDC now has to ask Mass Historic Commission for a letter to submit to DCR. Elisa and Rick to write a letter from WHC in support of the Historic District Commission, stating that the WHC has been involved in the ongoing plans and discussion. Letter will include that the WHC is concerned with maintaining the track, and that this is the first part of the project (Phase I, Rt 27 to Rt 20).

Many thanks to Rick for all the work he has put in regarding preservation of the rail site.

5. Archaeology Update: (Tonya)

North Cemeteries RFP is very close. John Moynihan has definitely retired. Beth Doucette is responsible for procurement. The limit for asking for CPC funds is \$35,000. The people abutting the wall are doing landscaping. Tonya was in touch with the landscape architect and the landowner re: the direction of the burials.

There is now an internet connection in the lab. Mike Lowery worked hard to get it established. Albie Cincotti and Mike made the connection. Mike L is working on a computer.

Audrey (former intern) is unable to set up the library showcase exhibit for October (Mass Archaeology month). Tonya and Royce will get together some materials and Gretchen will set up exhibit in showcase. Alf Berry is Wayland's speaker for Archaeology Month. He will be speaking on October 18th. There is a write-up in the Mass Archaeology Program booklet. Tonya to give Gretchen the specifics to publicize.

Tonya and Sheila still working on finalizing sensitivity map. Sherry Greenbaum is the new Chairperson of the Conservation Comm. Tonya and Sheila met with her at Castle Hill, and spoke to Doug Harris about looking at area on his next visit to monitor.

Tonya said she would like to get slides and archaeology info from lab digitized.

At next meeting we can discuss proposed projects, costs, and prioritize.

6. Lokerville Green: (Elisa)

Meeting to discuss possible improvements to traffic island which contains WWII memorial is September 15th. John will represent WHC. Members received email with proposed changes/options.

7. Wayland 375 Update: (John)

John has added pictures to the 375 commemorative booklet and shared copies with the WHC. Discussion included suggestion of putting it as a link on the website, putting copies in the Wayland Library, adding to the title: "Reflections by John Dyer on the Occasion of Wayland's 375th Anniversary" or similar.

John suggested including in the Annual Report (under WHC) that Mike Lowery be recognized as an associate member and any other person who has assisted the WHC.

8. Historic Homes Update: (Elisa)

The Lydia Maria Child house now has a plaque.

9. Ceremonial Landscape Update: (Sheila)

Middle School Woods: In May, someone disturbed and destroyed features at the site, created new features, cut trees, and lit a fire. Sheila notified the police. She took photos and sent to an expert, who said that the work was done by someone trying to replicate Native American practices.

DPW: The first area had monitors on site, and worked well with the construction crew. The construction crew brought in an excavator who had previously worked with the Wampanoags. Now waiting for the next step.

Sheila mentioned that she suggested to Doug Harris that he could use new media center to make public service announcements to help educate others.

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

Jen Koeller came to update WHC re: the Lake Cochituate Gate House. DCR re-roofed the Gate House in the summer. The building is on the DCR's Historic Curatorship list. The next step will be a meeting with the engineer to see what they have in mind in terms of preservation and repair. WHC members are invited to be present. Jen gave copies of notes from CSPAC (Cochituate State Park Advisory Committee).

Next Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Wayland Historical Commission