

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2014

Minutes: (draft from meeting, to be approved and amended as needed at next meeting)

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

Guests: Duane Galbi, Jennifer Koeller

Chairperson Elisa Scola called the meeting to order

1. Minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting were approved as amended

2. Public Comment: Mike Lowery, who is on the Town Land Use Committee, mentioned to the Committee that the WHC is developing a sensitivity map. Sheila mentioned that having someone from the WHC on the Land Use Committee might be helpful. Sheila and Tonya shared examples of when and why that would be helpful. It was suggested that Sheila send a draft copy of the process to Mike Lowery. PAL was brought in to monitor the road widening project at West Palin St and Old Conn Path. WHC had not been contacted. Elisa stated that the awareness has improved significantly.

The Sensitivity Map subcommittee needs to complete the archaeological sensitive areas, then will meet with Brendan Decker.

3. Review of price quote for North Cemetery preservation plan: (Elisa)

Only one price quote was received (Barbara Donohue, RPA, Cultural Resource Consultant). Tonya thinks that she will be thorough, based on previous projects worked on. Elisa asked what the final product of the GPR would be/would there be a report? The RFP specified the areas to be done. Deliverables mentioned on page 7 mentioned bound copy and digital copies. Mike Lowery stated that the DPW needs to know which areas to stay away from. Suggestion to add specifics to map and additional copies. Also digital copy on GPR. Proposed requesting a meeting of Barbara Donohue and WHC. Discussion as to whether it was worth waiting until Spring for more price quotes. Tonya said she highly respected this woman and the work she has done. There are limited companies that do this kind of work, and timing complicates proposals like this.

Motion made to approve Barbara Donohue's preservation plan/price quote for North Cemetery. Seconded. Vote: 7 approved, 0 opposed Motion passes.

4. Railroad Update: (Rick)

Rick has not heard from Sarkis regarding the letter sent to MHC. Other information re: the rail trail: company to begin work next Spring, Friends of the Rail Trail may ask for CPC funds, expect approx. \$150,000. for Interpretive Site. We need to create a priority list for Interpretive Site. Suggested hiring an archaeologist (such as PAL) to separate out features, such as the brick inspection pits. Question as to what are the concrete slabs? Will need to target exploration, as we already have a good idea of the site. Discussion as to top three items included:

- 1) archaeological survey of engine house foundation, 2) signage-turtable, 3) preservation of freight house boards with names on them, 4) re-installing light at depot

Elisa suggested moving signage to #1 on list. Excavation could be done in stages. Discussion as to type of sign: single kiosk with info map vs several different signs/one at each part. John suggested having a sign posted stating, "This is a work in progress...This is what is to come..." to get people interested and aware. The signs need to be indestructible and be educational for the public. Suggested next Archaeology Month talk be about the railroad. Rick to contact Sarkis.

5. Archaeology Update: (Tonya)

Alf Berry gave a wonderful talk as the Archaeology Month speaker. 16 people came, were interested, and asked good questions. The leftover food was taken to a homeless shelter. An archaeology exhibit was put in the showcase at the Library by Royce and Gretchen. It is there for the month of October. Tonya talked to Mike Lowery and Mike Linderman, the Town fixed about 30 stones at North Cemetery.

Duane Galbi asked if MWRA has an archaeology department. You can presently see a cut set of pilings at Old Stone Bridge. It is on MWRA property near the pipe.

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

Duane gave information on the Structures North visit: the repair can be done in pieces, the bridge will not fall down, the railings are not up to code, suggested fixing 1/3 to 1/2, bridge is not unsafe, suggested establishing a berm to catch debris. Duane suggested a loose rock berm – tailings. You can get 500 tons for \$550 plus the cost of installing. Discussion as to needing approval from the Conservation Commission. Question as to whether DPW can do berm work. DPW does not have a crane. Will need to clean up debris again. Check with Conservation. The bridge is falling apart sideways/splitting. Possible cost to fix first arch is \$250,000. Other three arches will be less expensive. Elisa had mentioned to CPC and bringing up at Town Meeting. Would need to advertise, let people know and understand the importance of the bridge and repair. Discussion about trimming vegetation near bridge. SP Landscaping did the cleanup last year. Mike Lowery described how it was done. We can use the left over grant money for cleanup. Need to go to Conservation Comm and describe what the plan is. Suggested to contact Brian Monahan. Duane asked about building berm. Mike L suggested talking to Brian Monahan and Tom Sciacca. It is a federal river and part of the Wild and Scenic River Program. Duane mentioned researching matching State funds through Mass Preservation Project Funds.

7. Lokerville Green: (John)

John attended two meetings: 1) consultants presentation and 2) Selectmen's meeting. One suggestion involved dividing the Green. This would be expensive and would need State approval, as Lokerville Green is designated as a park. They are going to try a less expensive plan, making the end of School St and in front of the Villa one way.

8. CPC Update: (Elisa)

CPC discussed possible projects for the 2015 Town Meeting and possibly 2016 meeting. Also restoration of Historic Preservation funds for Cochituate School apartments.

9. Ceremonial Landscapes Update: (Sheila)

Sheila talked to a 7th grade teacher and there is an awareness at the Middle School of which areas are sensitive and need to be stayed away from. They are beginning to understand stewardship and respect the area. DPW monitors in Sensitive Area #1 going slowly. The Construction crew is fabulous. Sheila suggested that WHC send a letter to the construction team commending them, with a copy to the selectmen and DPW.

Another town has contacted us (Sheila/Tonya) regarding ceremonial landscapes. Sheila went with Doug Harris to visit. This fits with the theory that this area was a huge meeting site. Need continued discussion as to how do you reveal important things and still protect them. Education is key. Wayland is becoming an example of a town doing it right.

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

WHC has received a letter from Maynard re: discussion of demolition delay by-laws. The meeting is on November 6th. Elisa will bring draft proposal to a future meeting.

Discussion as to taking pictures of historic buildings and other buildings, and monuments in Wayland. example: pillars at Castlegate Rd/entrance to Mansion Inn

Next Meeting: Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 PM

Meeting recalled: 9:16 PM

Vote to approve reimbursement to Tonya Largy for refreshments and paper goods purchased for Archaeology Month Talk in the amount of \$144.69 In favor: 7 Opposed: 0

Meeting adjourned: 9:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ryder Sharry

Wayland Historical Commission