

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2015

Attendees: Members: Elisa Scola (Chair), Tonya Largy, John Dyer, Sheila Carel, John Dyer, Gretchen Ryder Sharry, Rick Conard; Guests: Bill Sterling, Karen Montague, Duane Galbi and Larry Kiernan

Chair Elisa Scola called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

1. Bill Sterling and Tonya Largy discussed an Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment that will be conducted for the Wayland Town Center Municipal Parcel. Tonya Largy worked with Duncan Richie of PAL on a scope of services. This will be a due diligence report for which no State archaeological permit will be required. Funding for the study will come from CPC. The study is urgent because there will be a Town Meeting article for this parcel in November. The motion was made to approve this contract and project, and this was unanimously approved. Sheila Carel thanked Bill for coming to our committee early on to avoid potential issues later on.
2. Stone's Bridge: Our MPPF application (Mass. Preservation Projects Fund through MHC) for funding was not approved, however we should be able to reapply when the next round of funding becomes available. Duane Galbi circulated a petition during the summer to request that the Selectmen assign the PMBC (Permanent Municipal Building Committee) to consult on the restoration of the bridge, and that PMBC approval be required before any funds appropriated for the bridge at Spring 2015 Town Meeting be expended. Elisa said that she was very disappointed to learn of this petition because discussions had already been underway with the PMBC in June and that Committee was not interested in becoming involved with the bridge. Elisa stated that the bridge is a historic project, not a building, and that our Commission's responsibility is historic preservation. She said that the bridge needs to be restored in an historically appropriate way, without mortar. Duane's article is on the Town web site yet he did not send a copy to our Commission or inform us ahead of time that he would be circulating the petition. Duane said that he is more inclined to make tradeoffs because of the limited funding available. Duane had arranged for a contractor to remove debris from the upstream side of the bridge during the summer, with remaining funding from the River Stewardship Council Small Grant Program grant that we originally received in 2012. There was discussion of how this debris removal could be made an annual project and how this could be funded. This year the DPW was not interested in hauling away the debris that was pulled out of the water by the contractor, and this added to the expense of the contract.
3. Wayland Rail Trail Project: Larry Kiernan arrived in time to participate in the discussion of meetings that are underway with the Planning Board and other committees and interested parties on how the trail should be routed around Wayland Depot. The Planning Board had met Sept. 8 to review the three alternatives that had been prepared by BETA Engineering in 2013. There will be a public hearing by the Historic District Commission on Sept. 17 to consider alternatives. Rick Conard stressed his desire to save as much track as possible within the historic district. Ellen Berkland, DCR Archaeologist, prepared a draft Archaeological Site Avoidance and Protection Plan (ASAPP) on Sept. 1. Larry Kiernan said

that Eversource is willing to partner with the Town to construct the trail. They will pull up the tracks and put down a base and the Town would pay for the surface on top of the base. This would enable Eversource to use their trucks to access the electric transmission towers along the tracks.

4. Dudley Woods Ceremonial Landscape: Sheila Carel said that a team from Ceremonial Landscape Research has been on the ground doing mapping of the site. This site may have been related to the Mansion Inn site in a comprehensive way.
5. WHC Annual Report: A report prepared by Elisa will be distributed for comments.
6. North Cemetery will be discussed at our next meeting.
7. There was a brief review of possible future projects over the next five years.

Our next meeting was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Conard