

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2016

Attendees: Members: Elisa Scola (Chair), Sheila Carel, John Dyer, Rick Conard

Chair Elisa Scola called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.

1. There were no public comments.
2. Town Meeting Articles: The North Cemetery CPA gravestone preservation article passed at Town Meeting on April 11. The next step is to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for conservation work, similar to the one that was developed for Phase I in 2003. The CPA article for Cochituate Town Clock restoration also passed on April 11. There was discussion of a clock maintenance plan; a group has reportedly offered to approach the Finance Committee to request inclusion of a line item in next year's budget cycle. There was reportedly a line item for this in the town budget until sometime in the 1980s when it was apparently eliminated for budgetary reasons. Due to the passage of the Mainstone Farm CPA article, there will be less funds available in the future for historic preservation purposes so we will have to anticipate budgeting such projects more selectively than in the past, although the 10% dedicated for historic preservation will remain available. Questions were raised and discussed as to what we want for the railroad interpretive site. Sheila recommended interpretive signing and a map of the site to raise awareness of the railroad site for the public. When the rail trail is built the railroad interpretive site will be more visible and in need of better interpretation. We should also put something on our WHC web site. Rick suggested the desirability of an investigation of the enginehouse foundations to be conducted or overseen by a qualified archaeologist.
3. Stone's Bridge MPPF application: MHC received the application and they have asked some questions that Gretchen Schuler will answer. An RFP has been issued by the Town for design and permitting for reconstruction of the bridge. Ben Keefe is the contact person for this.
4. Cultural Resource Policy: Sheila and Elisa will discuss this with Sarki after school vacation.
5. North Cemetery Preservation Plan priorities: Discussion was postponed due to Tonya's absence.
6. Archaeology Update: Discussion postponed.
7. Freight House and Railroad Interpretive Site: DCR Archaeologist Ellen Berkland will visit the site on Friday, April 22. Discussions have been underway with the Library expansion architects about the possibility of constructing a parking garage in the Library upper parking lot. One preliminary idea being discussed is to move the freight house closer to Concord Road and construct the garage east of it, so that the freight house would partly hide the garage. This is only an idea at this point and assumes the Library would remain at its present location. Questions were raised as to how this might affect a National Register eligibility if the location of the building was to be changed. It was suggested that if the building is to be moved, that it be made accessible for possible future public use by reconstructing the loading dock with a ramp. We will have our annual volunteer brush clearing event over the weekend of May 7-8.
8. The minutes of our March 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved with changes.

Our next meeting was scheduled for May 18 [this was subsequently changed to May 11].

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Conard