

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2017

Attendees: Members: Elisa Scola (Chair), Tonya Largy, John Dyer, Kay Westcott, Ann Gordon, Rick Conard, Amanda Ciaccio; Guests: Mike Lowery

Chair Elisa Scola called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the Selectmen's Hearing Room in the Town Building.

1. Public Comment: Mike Lowery requested that the Historical Commission consider taking a position against the article coming before Town Meeting endorsing a state grant for a new library. Lowery reported that according to its deed, the existing library cannot be used except for a public library. Lowery further reported that Wayland's new town counsel believes that the only way the current library building and land can be used for another purpose is to get the probate court to agree to it. He expressed his concern that the current library building might be abandoned.

The Commission discussed these concerns, acknowledging that the current library building is important to the town and its history. While the Commission has already expressed these concerns to Library Trustees, it was agreed to invite some representatives to an upcoming meeting for an update and further discussion.

2. CPA Projects: First High School (Bradford Hall): The CPC is requiring a preservation restriction as a condition of granting funding for replacement windows. The restriction would cover the building's exterior, not just the windows. A restriction of less than 30 years is straightforward; restrictions beyond 30 years trigger the Massachusetts Historical Commission's involvement. This requires a lawyer to write the restriction, with associated fees. The Commission discussed whether or not to adjust the current restriction time period to less than 30 years. It was agreed for the time being to continue with the current restriction of 40 to 50 years.

3. Proposed Demolition Delay By-Law: Elisa Scola was interviewed on the Wayland Buzz local cable show, and made a presentation at the League of Women Voters event. A Q&A about the proposal is available in the lobby of Town Building and at the library. Elisa will encourage people in favor of the delay to write letters to the Town Crier.

4. Railtrail: Eversource is not expected to present plans until the Conservation Commission meeting scheduled for April 18. During the weekend of May 6-7 we would like to organize another annual brush clearing to keep the weeds down off the tracks. Rick will contact the Boy Scouts and Larry Kiernan to get the word out to his Rail Trail mailing list.

5. North Cemetery: We have signed the contract with the preservation company and will discuss a start date. When the date is set we will notify Tom Holder, DPW director, to alert him and to discuss new methods of grounds management and equipment that can minimize the impact on the gravestones.

6. Archaeology: An archaeological assessment is needed at the Oxbow project; Gretchen Schuler had earlier provided documentation that showed no archeological work had been done there. Tom Holder, DPW director, will tour the lab soon to understand more about the work. Ben Gary, landscape architect designing trails at Oxbow and Dudley, reports there will be six test

pits at Dudley, along where the trails will be, going down up to six feet. Tonya will monitor this work. We will also need to supply monitoring of the trail work.

7. Gardescu Memorial: Focus is on selecting a bench from a catalog that Town Planner Sarkis Sarkisian has, and selecting a location. Suggestions include somewhere near Town Building, Mill Pond, or Dudley Woods. Once both bench and location are selected, we will make a request from DPW to install it.

8. Minutes: The January and February 2017 minutes were reviewed, amended and approved.

9. New Business: A question was raised about whether signs were being planned for Blacksmith Green.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon