

Wayland Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2017

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

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

1. Discussion of North Cemetery Project with Monument Conservation Collaborative: Irving Slavid presented a proposal for conserving the gravestones in North Cemetery that need attention. There are 98 stones that need treatment. The more severe problems include tipped stones, broken stones, and hazardous stones (easy to push over). We will receive before and after photos and a final report describing all the work.

Mr. Slavid led a discussion about the pros and cons of cleaning stones; his bid includes cleaning each stone he repairs, as requested in the RFP. Mr. Slavid feels that cleaning gravestones is not historically correct, does not necessarily preserve the stones, and the cleaned stones stand out in comparison to their neighbors that are not cleaned. He would advise not to clean the stones, and instead to use the time and money that would have gone into cleaning to repair more stones, specifically those listed in the proposal as “extras” in the Stoney section that need work. These extras are not currently in his scope of work.

After discussion, and a request for a cost-estimate on adding the extra stones to the bid, a motion was made to pursue a change order that would ask Monument Conservation Collaborative to use their professional judgment regarding cleaning, and to use any savings toward repairing stones not currently in the scope of work.

Vote: Six in favor, one abstention

It was further decided to explore the possibility of adding several broken stones in the South Cemetery to the scope, if funding can be secured. Mr. Slavid said he would submit a proposal for the additional work, as well as provide information about a regular maintenance schedule for historic cemeteries.

2. Update on TM results: Articles at Town Meeting having to do with the Town Clock, Mellon Law Office, Dudley Woods, and Oxbow Meadows all passed.

First High School Preservation Restriction: The HC and the CPC agree on the need for a preservation restriction on the windows at the old High School/Bradford Hall. Gretchen Schuler proposes to write the preservation restriction and ask Wayland’s Town Counsel to review it. Restrictions for longer than 30 years must involve the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The guarantee on the windows being purchased and installed in Bradford Hall is for 20 years. The Commission agreed to seek a preservation restriction of 30 years on the windows.

Demolition Delay By-Law: The article at Town Meeting failed by one vote. Those HC members who had attended Town Meeting said the primary objections from opponents were that the definition of “historically significant” was not sufficiently clear, nor the process for determining it. Also at issue was lack of clarity about a possible appeals process. A discussion about whether

or when the HC will bring a revised version of the article to Town Meeting again will continue in the coming months.

3. Rail Trail: Rick Conard is planning for public brush clearing the weekend of May 6 and 7. The idea is to clear the brush off the tracks so they are more visible and can be appreciated by those who use the Rail Trail. Rick has drafted a flyer and talked with Transfer Station staff about getting containers for brush, and with State Road Autobody about putting containers temporarily behind their site. He has also rented a brush clearer. To recruit volunteers, he will contact the high school about listing it in the community service opportunities, and put it in the Wayland e-news and Patch. The Friends of the Wayland Rail Trail may also be there.

In Phase 2 of the Rail Trail project, the Conservation Commission is meeting on April 27 and VHB David Halliwell are expected to present new plans. The Weston Historical Commission wrote a letter in support of preserving our cattle pass, just as we wrote one for Weston.

4. Archaeology: Tonya and Royce have been working hard on the Sandhill report and it is nearly complete. The HC budget of \$1,000 will cover use of the Large Hearing Room from a previous event (~ \$100), an atlatl purchased by Tonya (\$60), and the work that John Pretola is doing on the ceramics (\$600). On October 21 John Pretola will give a talk about the ceramics from Sandhill, co-sponsored by the Historical Society.

The Dorey House at 107 Sudbury Road is schedule to be demolished. Tonya and Amanda will do some archaeological screening there.

5. Update on Castlegate Pillars: Mike Lowery reported on the status of the Castlegate Pillars, on the corner of Castlegate Road and West Plain Street, which once marked the back entrance to the Mansion Inn. These are on Town property, so they are in the custody of the Board of Public Works. The pillars are starting to deteriorate, and were examined by Tom Holder and Joe Doucette, who feel the repair work should not be done by DPW but rather by someone with specific expertise. Mr. Lowery says the Board of Public Works plans to get some estimates on the restoration work, and will ask for CPC funding. He will keep the HC updated, and asked for the HC's support.

6. Update on Gardescu service and memorial bench: The memorial service is scheduled for April 22 at 2pm at the Friends Meeting House in Framingham, 841 Edmonds Road. John Dyer has gotten some catalogs of benches, and recommends the bench that is currently behind the Veterans' Memorial. It is recycled plastic, which is appropriate for Paul. The group will take a field trip during an upcoming meeting when it is not dark.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon