

Wayland Historical Commission
September 12, 2017

Small Hearing Room, Floor 2, Wayland Town Building

Present: Elisa Scola, Rick Conard, John Dyer, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Kay Westcott

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

North and South Cemetery Update

- Ann Gordon checked on progress at the North Cemetery, and verified that Monument Conservation has completed the second phase of repair on markers, for which they have submitted a \$14,427 invoice. This is in addition to the \$14,200 invoice paid in July.
- The Commission voted unanimously to pay the August invoice
- Kay displayed photos of gravestones that had been repaired, and some that still require repair
- Kay expressed concern that there are additional gravestones that need attention that are not on the current list, and recommended that we should have an ongoing fund for continuous repairs
- We have responsibility for South Cemetery and the historic portions of Lakeview as well (anything before 1900)
- Elisa recommended that Ann and Kay make a list of additional gravestones in North Cemetery that need attention

Demolition Delay

- Kay spoke with Chris Skelly from Mass Historical Commission; he is willing to talk with us about the Demolition Delay and provide advice
- Elisa will contact him

First High School

- The CPC funded the window replacements, and we are requiring a restriction on the exterior as well as the windows
- Our usual 50-year restriction was deemed excessive since the windows are under a 25-year warranty, so we had agreed on a 30-year restriction
- The Trinitarian Church has requested a 20-year restriction
- We would like to stand firm on the 30-year restriction

Castle Gate Pillars

- BPW requested funds to dismantle the pillars and reconstruct them

- The cost is the same whether or not they stay in place or are moved
- The funding request is blind to moving or not moving the pillars
- Kay reports that DPW director Tom Holder is indifferent to moving or not moving the pillars
- The WHC remains unanimous that the pillars should not be moved.

Digital Records Online

- Kay reports that the Boston Public Library is willing to put our digital records on Digital Commonwealth, a website with archives and library materials available for free to all viewers
- We are waiting for the head of IT to get a separate hard drive to load the material and send to BPL

Railroad and Rail Trail Cattle Passes

- Rick and Gretchen Schuler attended the Selectmen's July 24 meeting to pursue the question of funding for the cattle pass
- Gretchen has been investigating the balance of CPA funds available for the Rail Trail; she estimates about \$30K hasn't yet been spent
- On Aug. 15, Gretchen, Rick and Tonya, along with Sarkis Sarkisian, went to the Planning Board meeting
- The Board appreciated the importance of preserving the cattle pass and asked a lot of questions
- The chair of the Planning Board asked for a plan
- Sarkis has engaged the town's planning consultant — TEC — to look at the issue
- Sarkis says DCR is willing to save the cattle pass, but is not committing funds
- The first estimate was \$28K for repairs to the cattle pass; Sarkis thinks this can be reduced
- We could put some interpretive signs there, possibly funded by CPC
- Eversource has selected a contractor for the Rail Trail access road; work may start by the end of Sept. or early Oct.
- The Town has applied for a grant from DCR for permitting and design for the section west of Rt. 20
- A telephone pole fell across the Rail Trail and DPW moved it, but the base remains

Archaeology

- Fairly successful sifting event on Sat. Aug. 26
- Found one quartz point, some chipping debris, and other historic artifacts
- The Town drafted a waiver for UMass people who will work at the Dorey House
- In addition, people who are involved in the excavation must be up to date on their tetanus shots
- Elisa's daughter is planning to film the dig

- The UMass Amherst student will work on this with supervision from her department in Sept, October, maybe November
- The house has been condemned, so the work will be outside, possibly along the back of the house
- John shared a map of the lot that shows the location of the septic system and the cesspool. Bob Dorey helped John locate these items. Septic system, 800 gal., was pumped in 2003.
- UMass is lending us some of their equipment, but there are some items they have requested we supply
- Tonya asked the WHC to approve a motion to spend up to \$200 on additional equipment
- The motion passed unanimously.

Brookside – Chapter 40B development at Mahoney’s

- One of our oldest and most important artifacts – an unusual bifurcate-based point -- was found near Pinebrook Road, not far from this site
- The WHC wrote to the Zoning Board to request the opportunity to perform an archaeological survey of the site prior to its development. MassHousing concluded this would be appropriate prior to development, based on WHC recommendations.

Library

- Elisa received an email from the board chair of the library asking if the WHC would have interest in using the current library building if the library moves to its new proposed location
- The library planning committee is meeting on Sept. 18 and will discuss this. We are encouraged to attend.

Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon