

**West Boylston Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 23, 2009**

**Members Present-** Beverly Goodale, Barbara Deschenes, Kim D. Hopewell, Neil Norum, Gregory Zakarian, Dennis Parker

Meeting called to order at 4:07 p.m.

**Acceptance of minutes-** Upon a motion of Barbara and Second by Neil, it was unanimously voted to accept the meeting minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting.

The chair recognized Citizen Brenda Bowman. Mrs. Bowman is concerned about the Department of Conservation and Recreation's request to swap land with the town. The proposed swap is the Rail Trail and River Rd in Oakdale for a parcel of land at the old Antinarella Farm on Prospect Street. (The Prospect land would be converted to a playing field for the Parks Dept). It is presumed that the DCR will close River Rd. to through traffic and prohibit dogs from walking on any DCR Property. She stated that the DCR is concerned about people walking their dogs on the property and not picking and properly disposing of their pet's defecation causing contamination to the water supply. Brenda has gone down to the rail trail and removed bags of excrement herself. She has also spoken with the Town Administrator and the Department of Public Works about the care and maintenance of the trail. She was informed that the DPW is short staffed and will not be picking up the trash. Mrs. Bowman stated that she has a vet in Holden that is willing to donate gloves and receptacle drop off boxes. These boxes can be strategically placed at various stations around the rail trail for proper disposal of the feces.

Brenda also expressed grave concerns with the town receiving property that, according to the Open Space and Implementation Committee, is presumably tainted with Botulism. Mrs. Bowman feels that there would be a significant risk to the children playing on those fields.

She requested that she would like to have the Historic Commission draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating the Historical significance of the rail trail property. This letter would request that the town maintain its interest in the property as it stands now. The town had an article drafted by the Selectmen for Mays Semi-Annual Town Meeting. It has since been removed for further consideration. It is slated to return on October's Warrant.

The commission will take this matter under advisement.

Brenda requested an update on the 19 Crescent St. projects as well as the proposed Historical District. The Commission will provide information when it's available.



**Openshaw Property, N. Main St.-**

Beverly and Aaron Goodale and Neil Norum took a site-walk on the property on March 26<sup>th</sup> to photograph and document the barn. Preservationist Tom Petty was informed about the impending demolition and will evaluate the property.

These pictures were taken by Commissioner Norum for placement in the Historical Society.

**Openshaw Property  
North Main Street  
Oakdale, Massachusetts  
Pictures taken- March 2009**



**Mount Vernon Cemetery and FEMA Funds-** The December ice storm damaged a number of grave stones and trees throughout the cemetery. A letter was drafted by the Cemetery Trustees to Allen Stockstill, Public Assistance Project Officer from FEMA. This letter was to certify that "the Mount Vernon Cemetery in West Boylston, Massachusetts was accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Parks Service in Washington D.C. on June 10, 2008. Because of this designation it is included on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places as well. "FEMA has acknowledged this acceptance and because it is listed, FEMA will therefore pickup 75% of the cost of fixing the damaged stones, tree trimming and limb removal.

Preservationists Fannin and Lehner are on the state list of accepted companies, and have been contracted by the Trustees. They assessed and catalogued what stones needed to be fixed. The estimate of \$7,000 and supporting documentation was submitted to FEMA. The company is slated to begin repair work in May.

The Cemetery Trustees will update the Commission accordingly with the progress of repairs.

**CPC Grant Application-** It was unanimously voted to prepare the grant after Fannin and Lehner's assessment of the cemetery is complete. It is anticipated that the Commission will prepare and submit the paperwork to the Community Preservation Committee to meet the committee's deadline. This application, however, will be presented without a dollar amount attached. The application will be amended immediately upon the receipt of the appropriate documentation.

**Edgar A Whitcomb Award-** Upon a motion of Kim and second by Barbara, it was unanimously voted to present the Edgar A Whitcomb Award to William Merritt. Mr. Merritt has been a tremendous help with society projects over the years and has been a valuable asset. Bill also currently serves on the Historical Society Board of Directors.

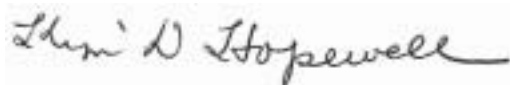
Kim will prepare the certificate for the May 6, 2009 Historical Society Annual Meeting.

**Other Business-** None

**Date of Next Meeting-** My 21<sup>st</sup> 4 p.m. Historical Society

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim D. Hopewell  
Historical Commissioner