

**West Boylston Historical Commission
65 Worcester Street
West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583
Meeting Minutes March 21, 2013**

Commissioners present: Beverly Goodale, Barbara Deschenes, Neil Norum and Dennis Parker.

Commissioners absent: Nancy Barakian, Kim Hopewell and Gregory Zakarian.

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. at the Historical Society building, 65 Worcester St., West Boylston

Meeting Minutes

Upon motion of Neil with a second by Dennis, the minutes of February 21, 2013 were approved as written.

Treasury

Account balance: \$536.32 & \$1,530.82

Boston Post Cane Update

Bev's investigation into past recipients revealed a partial listing:

1910 - Ashley Wood	1924 – James Buck
1963 - Jerry Ano (Henault)	1968 – Arabella Ordway
1978 – Goldie Blake	1983 – Guy Blodgett
1995 – Sarah Adams	1999- Secondo Negro
2001 – Mary Gardner	2005 – Louis Lavoie
2007 – Clarence Cormier	2008 – Eric Carlson (died in 2011)

Although there was no evidence that Sarah Adams received the cane, her obituary in 1996 stated that she was the holder of the Boston Post Cane. Upon motion of Dennis, second by Neil, it was voted to include her name on the plaque.

Helen Kelly: Following much discussion, it was voted to present a Boston Post Cane certificate to Helen Kelly at a luncheon at the Senior Center where she goes for lunch every Monday and Friday. Have a member of the Board of selectmen do the presentation and perhaps have the Council on Aging could provide a cake that they could serve for dessert after lunch. A tentative date of April 8 is scheduled for the occasion.

Other Business

Edgar A. Whitcomb Award:

Bev nominated Phil Chevalier to be the recipient of this year's award for all the years he has been plowing the society property. Phil does the initial plowing and Aaron does the cleaning up and the shoveling of the walk ways. Upon motion of Neil, second by Dennis it was a unanimous vote.

Christmas tree on the common:

The topic of cutting down the tree on the common that is lighted every year came up for discussion. The tree is a commemorative one and has a plaque at its base stating:

“1732-1932
George Washington
Bicentennial
Given by

Woman’s Club of West Boylston”

Bev suggested contacting Michael Mulryan, a certified arborist, to make a professional assessment of the tree and to provide us with a copy of his findings.

Upon motion of Dennis, second by Neil, it was voted to approve Bev sending a letter to Leon stating the Commission’s stand on the issue of the tree. The letter will express the Commission’s remarks made at the meeting stating that we are not in favor of cutting down a piece of history – namely a commemorative tree simply because it’s inconvenient to light it at Christmas time.

The next meeting will be May 2, 2013 at 4:00

Upon motion of Neil, second by Dennis, we adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Deschenes

