

February 4, 2015

Historical Commission Meeting (minutes approved Feb 19, 2015 with no changes)

The Upton Historical Commission met at 5:53 pm on February 4, 2015 at the Town Hall, 1st floor meeting room for a special meeting, called by the Chair. In attendance were Chairperson, Cathy Taylor; Vice-chair, Joyce Heywood; members Howie Glassman, and Ken Picard.

As this was a special meeting to address a time-sensitive agenda item, there were no minutes submitted from our previous (January) meeting and no treasurer's report.

Business:

Mass Historical Commission Preservation Award Letter: The Commission discussed a draft of a letter to the Mass Historical Commission on behalf of the Upton Town Hall renovation. This letter was requested by Town Clerk, Kelly McElreath and the town selectmen in support of the town hall renovation project's nomination for a Mass Historical preservation award, which had a submission date of February 13, which fell before our next regularly scheduled meeting of February 19.

The draft was approved by a unanimous vote with one change suggested by Joyce. The sentence reading, "This restored building honors the history of Upton, reflects the character of the residents of our community both past and present, and meets our governmental needs now and in the future" was changed to read "This restored building honors the history of Upton, reflects the character of the residents of our community both past and present, and supports our governmental needs now and in the future." The word "meets" was changed to "supports."

Historical Account CPA Funding Update: In follow-up to previous discussions regarding funding possibilities for a potential historical land survey as part of our on-going preservation plans of Upton's two oldest cemeteries, Cathy reported that she had learned from the town CPC that there is currently \$72,544.80 available. This amount is separate to money slated for the Town Hall renovation funds.

A brief discussion followed regarding rules for getting quotes for the survey. At this time, we are unclear whether the quote process falls under Chapter 30B, which requires advertising for quotes. Cathy didn't think Chapter 30B would apply, as the point where advertising kicks in has recently been raised from \$30K to \$35K. Based on her preliminary, general research, she feels the price for the survey would come in under \$30K. We would still need to get 3 quotes. We need to clarify this point when we're ready for the quote stage.

There being nothing further, the Commission adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Joyce Heywood, Vice-chair