



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 8, 2023

Location: In person and Virtual Go to Meeting

Call to Order

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

In Attendance

Committee Members:

- Joan Burrell - PRESENT
- Donna Kempton - PRESENT
- Patrick Rosendale - PRESENT
- Edward Phillips Chair - PRESENT
- Craig Weinfuss - PRESENT
- Russell Wood - PRESENT
- Katherine Worsham - PRESENT

Discussion

Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes from February need to be located. They will be approved at the next Historical Commission meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- Total of Treasurer's Report is \$917.17.
- Joan will contact Cathy Taylor to find out if Jim Rock received his check.

Heritage Park Sign:

- We received 3 quotes for the Heritage Park Sign.
- SignsPlus quoted \$10,032.
- New England Sign carvers quoted \$4,032.
- Blackstone Valley Tech quoted \$1,328.
- Ed made a motion to approve Blackstone Valley Tech to carve the sign. Motion seconded by Donna. Motion carried unanimously.
- Ed and Craig will visit Blackstone Valley this coming week to discuss the sign creation further.

Holy Angels Church:

- If we receive funding for the warrant article, we can use these funds to repair the storm windows for the church.
- Ed and Craig took a tour of the church over the weekend.
- Craig recorded a video of the church. Craig can provide the video if anyone wants to see it.
- Holy Angels is structurally sound.
- Roof repairs to the church have sealed the leaks successfully.

Mike Antonellis - Town Planner:

- Mike contacted Ed and said that an individual purchased the house on 33 Milford Street. This house is 3 houses up from the VFW.
- 33 Milford Street was gutted by the former owner and then he decided he didn't want to do the restoration.
- We might need to do a demo delay for the building, but the owner has plans to sell it.
- Russ said we will not have to do anything until someone notifies the town that they plan to demolish the building.

Historical Commission Warrant Article:

- Selectmen at the BOS meeting have not yet reviewed 37 Warrant Articles.
- The Historical Commission has three Warrant Articles submitted - The Heritage Park Sign, the Grange, and a 25k request for funding emergency work.

Grange Building:

- Ed has been working for the last month on a state grant application for the Grange.
- Ed secured a contract with an architect who lives in Upton, a firm located in Hopkinton.
- Nealon, Nealon and Click was hired as the attorney to do a title search.
- The Worcester Register of deeds has reviewed the title.
- Deed has two incumbrances: Grange borrowed 20k from the State Grange. It was awarded to them as a mortgage and they have no payment on this and it expires 3 years from now, unless they sell the building.
- State Historical Commission will not look favorably on the mortgage.
- The mortgage was taken out in 2015 to have work completed on the sills.
- The state grange owns the building. If Upton sells the building then the state Grange takes all of the proceeds. The state grange has to approve the grant application.
- A Preservation Restriction would need to be put on the deed to get any work done.
- March 18th - The State Grange is having a meeting to discuss the Upton Grange restoration project.
- Ed emailed Kristin the grant application who forwarded it to the head of the State Grange for review.

- Ed emailed Kristin the grant application who forwarded it to the head of the State Grange for review.
- Ed said that the grant application will be mailed next week with or without the State Grange's approval.
- If the state Grange says they will not provide permission, then we're done and we go back to the CPC for funding.
- Ed wants another meeting to review the application with Mrs. Paulsen
- The project will require 160k in total. 80k from the CPC. 80k from the state. This will leave \$40k from the CPC for additional work when the original project is completed.
- Things that the grant would address: Roof replacement/Siding repairs/Lead/ADA/ Stairs/Windows replacement/
- Grant awards: June 24th
- July 6th Ed and the architect would attend a meeting with the state.
- Selection of contractors is in late October
- No work would start until November
- June 30th of 2024, all work needs to be complete. Any invoices after June 30th, the State Historical Commission will not pay.
- They require a sign. We might be able to get a sign from DPW.
- Grange is on the hook for any costs incurred for attorney and architect

Social Media:

- Linda Gay has been getting people to talk on social media about the Knowlton Risteen building.
- Patrick asked if we need to put out a statement concerning the Citizens Petition Warrant Article.

Upton's 300th Anniversary:

- Donna made a rough draft for the 300th Anniversary.
- Do we want to create a 300th Anniversary commemorative coin? Hats? Sweatshirts?
- Donna will provide the outline for the 300th Anniversary at the Historical Commission May meeting.

Future of the Historical Society Meeting tomorrow:

- Tomorrow March 9th at 6:30 at the Knowlton Risteen Faye room is the "Future of the Historical Society" meeting where we will brainstorm our vision for the Historical Society.

Meeting Adjourned

Ed Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Donna Kempton. A roll call was taken and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Weinfuss, member