



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 2023

Location: In person and Virtual Go to Meeting

Call to Order

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 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

- Tom Bair (Guest) - PRESENT
- Linda Gay (Guest) - PRESENT

Discussion

Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes from February 14th and March 8th were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- Total of Treasurer's Report is \$1000.
- Donation account is \$917.17.
- Jim Rock has received his check.

Historical Society presentation from Tom Bair: Future use for Knowlton Risteen.

- Tom Bair read the letter concerning the request to the Board of Selectmen to allow the Historical Society to stay in the Knowlton Risteen building.

- Tom asked if the Historical Commission will support the Historical Society's request and provided suggestions to the letter.
- Joan Burrell: We might want to add something concerning the education of our children into the letter. We hosted the 3rd grade field trip. Their curriculum is about town history. We teach them how the government works within the town. Then they come over to the Historical Society museum for a field trip to see things about their history. Joan provides a lecture on education in the 1800s.
- Town Manager said: The Board of Selectmen doesn't want to make any changes until we develop a plan for the building.
- Joan Burrell: Everyone from the Historical Society and the Historical Commission should make an appearance during the Board of Selectmen meeting when Tom presents the letter.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Tom will notify the Historical Society and Historical Commission of the date when he will present the letter to the Board of Selectmen. All should attend the BOS meeting to provide support.
- Linda Gay is writing a letter to the Town Manager to state that Linda is pulling the petition. Linda is going to pull the petition after speaking with David Loeper. David said a number of things need to be tweaked in the wording. The history of the building is important and it's eligible for historic preservation. Linda doesn't want the intent of the pull to be misinterpreted.
- Ellen Arnold said that we can't pull the petition, but we can pass over it.
- Ed raised a vote: "Is the Historical Commission in favor of supporting the Historical Society letter?" The vote passed by majority. Ed abstained from the vote.

Heritage Park Sign:

- Ed and Craig will meet with Blackstone Valley in September to discuss the sign in further detail.
- During the meeting with BVT, we will discuss the hand carved letters which Blackstone Valley agreed to accommodate.

Warrant Article

- Reduced the sign from 5K to 3K. We can further reduce the request as necessary.
- If BVT does not use acrylic letters it should cost less.
- BVT should charge us for the paint.

Grange Building

- The Grange received a letter from Mass Historical. They stated that 3 items were missed in the application. One was the letter from the attorney who reviewed the title of the building. They didn't transcribe the deed into the letter.
- The second item was the assessor map. It was supposed to be included. The request was not stated clearly. They wanted the actual assessors map. Ed included this now from the assessor.
- The third is that the state Grange would put a preservation restriction on the building. They met last night for an executive meeting. They called the guy from Boston, they were supposed to type it up and sign it.
- Kristin will mail in the 3 missing items.
- The state received 39 requests against their grant. There was 1 million dollars available for the grant. Ed is wondering if they can split the money for the grant.

- We received a letter from KP Law. Discussed the preservation restriction. Demands that a preservation restriction be placed on the deed prior to any money being handed out. This is already done and it's language that follows the state code.
- CPC voted on moving the money. Paul Carey voted no. Everyone else on the CPC voted yes and it passed by majority vote.
- Joe Laydon has to send a letter May 5 if it passes.
- We need to be prepared to receive questions about the Grange by folks attending town hall meeting.
- The sign article passed with no questions.
- The 25k request passed with no questions.

33 Milford Street – Stop work order:

- Ed received an email from Amy (From Pat Roaches office) stating that the interior demolition at 33 Milford Street was complete.
- The contractor was waiting for financing to complete the project. He has submitted numerous documents to the building inspectors office. He didn't get building permits to do the work.
- A "stop work" order was sent to the contractor.
- The only thing that he can do at this point is cover up the building with tarps. He cannot do anything else until he gets a building permit.

Warrant Article for \$25k for commission

- Selectmen approved this article.
- Selectmen asked if this is going to be a recurring expense that the Historical Commission will request every year. Ed said no.

Social Media update and review:

- Patrick asked if we would be interested in starting a TicTok page for the Historical Commission.
- This might pull in younger people.
- Patrick will provide the Historical Commission with a couple examples of what he would put onto TicTok and then we'll vote on if we want to go forward.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Ed would like to put something on the Facebook about the progress on the Grange restoration.

Upton's 300th anniversary:

- Donna is working on the outline.
- Donna looked into what other towns are doing for their anniversaries.
- Grafton is celebrating their 300th anniversary the same year.
- Joan would like to have the anniversary in June.
- Joan, Donna and Russ will discuss this further during our meeting in May.

- Donna will provide a rough draft of the events for the 300th anniversary.

Future Historical Commission Meeting Dates:

- Next meetings for the Historical Commission are: **May 17th, July 19th, September 13th**
- No meetings in June or August

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 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Weinfuss, member