



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes

**Date: May 17, 2023**

**Location: In person and Virtual Go to Meeting**

#### Call to Order

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:07 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 - NOT PRESENT
  
- Ellen Arnold (Guest) - PRESENT
- Bill Taylor (Guest) - PRESENT

#### Discussion

##### Meeting Minutes

- Ed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 12th. Joan seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

##### Treasurer's Report:

- Total of the Treasurer's Report is \$1000 and remains unchanged.
- James Rock and Eva Gibavic have both received payments.

##### Ed received Macris report:

- Ed received a complete printout of the Macris report. All 187 properties are listed on the National Historic District. The Upton State Forest has 30 resources listed.

**Memorandum of Agreement with Dept. of Conservation and Recreation regarding mitigation measures for loss of the “North Barn,” former supply building for the CCC Camp – discussed by Ellen Arnold, representing the Board of Directors for Friends of Upton State Forest:**

- Ellen Arnold and Bill Taylor (President) from The Friends of Upton State Forest are asking that the Historical Commission submit a letter to the Massachusetts DCR.
- The DCR can write an interpretive plan. We just need the DCR to assign the resources for this. Ellen provided the Historical Commission with the letter to send to the DCR, which the Historical Commission can adjust as needed.
- Ed said that the Historical Commission will review the letter that the Friends have provided.

**Heritage Park Sign - Next Steps**

- We need to draw up the specifications for reproducing the Heritage Park sign.
- We will need Joe Laydon (Town Manager) to review the specifications.
- We will send the specifications to Derek at Blackstone Valley Tech.
- The specifications document should include the size, scope, finish, and materials of the sign.
- ACTION ITEM: Craig will put together the specifications for the sign and then Ed will review the specifications document.

**Grange Building**

- The State Grange stated that there were 3 items missing.
- The Grange asked for the attorney who wrote up the letter who did the title review to type the description of the property to the deed into the letter.
- They wanted a letter from the State Grange agreeing that the preservation restriction be placed on the property.
- The State Grange did not like the language that they were asked to put into the letter.
- Kristin sent them an email, and 2 days later, they called her to pick up the letter.
- After town meeting on May 4, Ed asked Joe Laydon to put together a letter that the CPC funds were approved for restoration of the building. The letter needed to be certified.
- The letter was sent.
- June 24th is the announcement date of who receives the grant from the state.
- If the Grange gets the grant award, they and their architect will meet on July 6th and July 7th in Boston.

**Warrant Article for \$25k for commission – proposed projects:**

- The 25k Warrant Article passed at the Town Hall Meeting.
- We do have one project which is replacing the two missing storm windows on Holy Angels church.
- Ed will draft a short bid to repair the missing storm windows.
- Joan will talk to Ken Paulsen about the original stained glass windows in the attic of the Knowlton Risteen building.

- Ed would like to restore the headstones in the 1st cemetery.
- Ed attended a seminar last summer in Mendon, and they demonstrated how to clean headstones and also repair headstones.
- Ed asked Partick if he could post on Facebook a request for volunteers for assisting with fixing headstones.

#### **Social Media update and review:**

- Patrick reported that things are going well on the Social Medial page.

#### **Upton's 300th anniversary:**

- Ed thinks that the 300th anniversary should include the CCC Camp because this is the CCC's camp 100th anniversary.
- Joan and Donna met to discuss the Anniversary. The most critical thing to consider is how they'll get money to fund the Anniversary.
- The Anniversary will include fireworks and a parade. We might need close to 100k to fund the events.
- We should ask the town for a chunk of money each year. Maybe we ask for 10k a year for the Anniversary.
- Joe Laydon thinks that the town should create a gift account. Joe Laydon does not think that the town can contribute money for this event.
- Joe Laydon will reach out to other towns to see how they generated money for similar events. He does not think that we can use tax money to fund the event.
- Ed says that we should have a plan of what we want to do before we start looking for financial funding.
- ACTION ITEM: Joan will contact Grafton to discuss what they did for their Anniversary celebration.
- Donna made an outline of events which includes: Marching band, floats, boys scouts, girl scouts, grange, childrens crafts, scavenger hunt, coloring contest, square dancing, trivia contest.
- ACTION ITEM: Donna will type the outline and provide it for the next Historical Commission meeting.

#### **Topics not reasonable anticipated in advance:**

- The Historical Commission does not have an objection to adding a link to the Historical Society link which is as follows:  
<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~mauhs/research.html>

**Next meetings for the Historical Commission are:**

- **JULY 19th @ 7PM - Meeting will be held in the Upper Room of the town hall**
- **September 13th**
- No meetings in June or August

**Meeting Adjourned**

Ed Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joan Burrell. A roll call was taken and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Weinfuss, member