



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 19, 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

- Donna made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 17th. Joan seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- General fund: \$1000.00
- Donation fund: \$917.17
- Article fund \$25,000
- Amount leftover from 275th anniversary in an escrow account: \$5891.23.

CCC Camp:

- Ed sent a letter to Brian Arrigo who is the Commissioner for MA DCR.

- Ed has not received a response from Brian.
- Ed would like to tour the CCC site. Ellen and Bill suggested two separate tours.
- The first tour date has been scheduled for August 23rd at 3PM (August 24th is the rain date). This will be a tour of the CCC camp buildings.
- The second tour date has been scheduled for September 24th at 1 PM with Bill Taylor which will be the 3 mile tour.
- Gray and Pape sent a letter to the Historical Commission. They are an archeology company that is required by the state of Massachusetts to perform evaluations of the site prior to disruption.
- Gray and Pape performed an archaeological evaluation at Gore Rd. They met with Russ, Joan and Ed at Gore Rd.
- During the evaluation, Gray and Pape found some artifacts. They found two cellar holes. They believe the cellar holes belonged to "C. Wood". Ezra Whitney originally deeded the property to Clafin Wood.
- The cellar hole was probably originally the home of Ezra Whitney.
- There may be Native American artifacts also associated with this site.
- There was a Gore Mill on Gore Rd.
- Gray and Pape found artifacts on the site and took them to a museum.
- Ed would like a map to be created which identifies all of the archaeological sites in Upton.
- Cathy Taylor, Becky Westsel and Doug Harris may be able to provide further information about archaeological sites for the proposed map.
- Ellen asked if there is a bylaw for the Planning Board to consult with the Historical Commission about archaeological sites. There should be some sort of protocol about how this is handled.
- Ed proposed creating a bylaw to require the Planning Board to consult with the Historical Commission about archaeological sites.

Heritage Park Sign

- Ed and Craig would like to meet with Derek and the group of kids who are creating the sign.
- When Blackstone Valley Tech has the stock material in hand, we would ask them to contact us for further discussion about the sign.

Grange Building

- The Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded the Grange a grant of 50k for the roof, siding, and painting of the building.
- Ed attended a 2 hour zoom meeting for the discussion of the Grant.
- Tomorrow Ed will be meeting with the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- Bradley Lyon is a graduate from BVT. He is apprenticing with Scott Richardson's firm. He will be helping with the project.
- Scott Richardson will develop the bid specifications.
- Any updates need to be approved by Mass Historic for any updates that occur to the Grange. This will be attached to the Deed.
- The bid has to be posted twice to the public.

- The Grange has to sign a contract with the state prior to any work being done.
- All work has to be completed by June 30th of 2024.
- There are periodic reporting requirements that need to be met.
- Ed asked Partick to update the Facebook site to state that we received grant money for the Grange.
- Donations can be accepted for updates to the building.

Social Media Update

- Patrick mentioned that there is a new social media app called Threads.
- Patrick would like to create an account for this app.
- Ed made a motion to create a Threads account. Joan seconded. Motion passes unanimously. Patrick confirmed that he would create the account.

Upton's 300th anniversary

- There is money left over from the 275th anniversary which is \$5891.23.
- Joan pulled out information from the 275th anniversary in the Historical Society archives.
- Joan would like to form a committee for the anniversary. Maybe we could recruit people from the Bloomers Girls or the Men's Club.
- Ed will speak to Mr. Laydon about how we create a committee for the anniversary.

Future of the Holy Angels and Knowlton Risteen buildings workshop:

- There is a workshop for the future of Holy Angels and Knowlton Risteen buildings on July 25th at 7:30.
- The Historical Commission and Historical Society is invited to attend. It will take place after the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Appointment of Officers:

- Craig Weinfuss is Chairman.
- Katherine Worsham is Co-Chair.
- Ed Phillips is Secretary.
- Joan Burrell is Treasurer.

Next meeting for the Historical Commission:

- There is no meeting in August.
- September 13th at 7PM is the next Historical Commission Meeting.

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 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Weinfuss, member