



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes

***Date: Sept. 17, 2023***

***Location: In person and Microsoft Teams Meeting***

#### **Call to Order**

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

#### **In Attendance**

Committee Members:

- Craig Weinfuss – Chair - PRESENT
- Katherine Worsham - Co-Chair - PRESENT
- Joan Burrell - Treasurer - PRESENT
- Edward Phillips - Secretary - PRESENT
- Donna Kempton - PRESENT
- Patrick Rosendale – PRESENT
- Russell Wood – NOT PRESENT

#### **Discussion**

##### **Meeting Minutes**

- Ed made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 19th. Joan seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

##### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Joan reported all accounts with available funds
- \$1000 in the general account
- \$25k voted on last May for preservation/historical work
- \$917 donation account.

**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:**

- Tour of CCC camp on August 23rd was attended by several members and was informative as to the history of the facility.

- There is indirect evidence that some work is underway on the interpretive plan based on the letter we sent to the DCR commissioner back in May but there has been no formal response.
- During the visit the DCR supervisor reported a contract was signed with BVT about a year ago for the students to do the restoration work on the main building which is expected to take several years.
- The Historical Commission is being given a tour of the CCC camp property on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Craig asked if we should promote the site visit on our Facebook page. Ed stated that Friends of Upton Forest conduct these visits on a monthly basis and they are responsible for promoting the dates.

### **Heritage Park Sign - Next Steps**

- Derek Dauphne was asked to contact Craig and Ed for an onsite visit at BVT to meet with the teachers and students to discuss the creation of the new Heritage Park sign after the sign stock has been received so any questions and all details can be discussed prior to work beginning on the sign.
- Craig will reach out to Derek to ask him to inform us when BVT is ready for Craig and Ed to visit the school to discuss the work on the sign.

### **Professional Documentation of Historical Properties:**

- The CPC (Grace Brownell) asked if the Barbara Burke bench project had been completed and was informed that it was.
- She also asked about \$10k that was approved in 2018 for the purpose of documenting historically significant properties that were facing demolition. The 10k are the remains which are unspent and the CPC is looking for a status on whether we intend to use this money or return it.
  - o Craig asked if we should document the house at 33 Milford St as it was prior to the renovation work that is underway. This is probably not possible as the demolition work has already been done.
  - o Ed suggested we call the Mass Historical Commission as a group or sub-group to discuss the methods to proceed with historically documenting other properties in Upton outside of the ones previously documented in the 1990s that are part of the three historical districts. Craig will arrange a time he is available so we can call Mass Historical Commission to ask questions.
  - o Craig will notify the CPC of our intent to use the \$10k and ask them to keep the funds in play.

### **Grange Building**

Architectural work began in July and August to prepare the contract bid documents for the restoration work which will begin next spring. The project stands at \$170k with \$120k from the CPC and \$50k from the Mass historical commission.

Ed reported a representative from the Mass Historical Commission visited the Grange site back in July and met with the Grange and the architect to discuss the restoration work.

Scott Richardson (the architect) has developed the bid specs and submitted them to the State for review. The State is expected to respond with any required changes to the bid specs which will be made by the architect. The bid is expected to be ready sometime in October.

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

- Patrick reported that things have been quiet on our Facebook page over the past 6 weeks. We have picked up 30 new followers in the past month, and we are following the local area historical societies.
- Patrick thought we should develop historical programming for kids, meeting with the kids at Kiwanis, or other ideas.
- Patrick stated the Mendon Upton Scouting is looking for new volunteers.
- Patrick wants to combine all our organizations together in some fashion, i.e., Friends of Upton Forest, the Boy scouts, the Upton Historical Society and the Upton Historical Commission. Patrick will reach out to Ellen Arnold for any input she might offer.

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

- Donna provided a typed outline of the ideas for a 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade. Ed will scan them in and email to everyone.
- Ed stated he had discussed the issues surrounding funding of a celebration with Joe Laydon, our town manager and that Joe agreed to do a little research and get back to us.

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

- Joan wanted to know if any of us would man a booth at the annual Heritage Day fair on the town common on Sept 29th. It was agreed some would.
- Katherine stated we previously had a display at the fair of the old schoolhouses, pamphlets on the Cave and the walking tour. She would like to print out coloring things for kids' activities that are Upton themed. Katherine agreed to man the booth for a while but cannot do it all day. Craig will assist with part of the day. Donna can be there early to assist. We have a banner that can be placed in front of the table. Joan believes we also have brochures of the cave and the walking tour.
- Patrick asked if we could have a challenge such as: can you build a copy of the Knowlton Risteen Building or the Grange building or another representative Upton Building. He suggested we could have a photo contest and we could possibly give them a badge or something similar as a prize.

### **Next meeting of the Historical Commission:**

- **October 11th @ 7PM - Meeting will be held in the Upper Room of the town hall**
- **September 13th**

### **Meeting Adjourned**

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

Respectfully submitted  
Ed Phillips  
Secretary