

**Whately Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2017**  
**DRAFT 2**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

All members present by 5:45 (Donna Wiley (chair), Susan Baron, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle, Darcy Tozier.

1. Minutes of July meeting were approved unanimously
2. Town Hall Planning – the outcomes of the Building Committee meeting were summarized, notably the reaction to the reluctance of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to accept our use of Window Master to restore the town hall windows. Instead, the window repair would revert back to its original form using the option which repaired the windows as they were and added higher quality storm windows to attain an insulation value roughly equivalent to modern double pane windows.
3. In order to support the above action, it was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that the Historical Commission endorsed the preservation of the existing windows including full restoration of the side pockets and installation of aluminum storm windows.
4. Briefly discussed the feasibility of having a ground-breaking ceremony at Town Hall once all the contracts were approved.
5. Discussed the Historic Preservation Award which will be given to Quonquont Farm and its owners Ann Barker and Allison Bell. We reviewed the text of the press release and the award ceremony text and made small changes in them.
6. Discussed the advisability of having a Scenic Byways bylaw added to either town general bylaws or zoning board bylaws. Judy believes it could assist the Planning Board in its evaluation of proposals put before it. It might also help people better appreciate the historical things they have. No clear documentation was found but several roads believed to be already designated as scenic roads including Chestnut Plain, North Street, Haydenville and Conway. Lynne Sibley will be consulted about designations already made.  
Scenic road bylaws primarily affect stone walls and trees that are in the public right of way. Our discussion centered on gathering information for the next meeting about existing conditions, possible roads to be added and research into planning grants for the purpose of documenting existing stone walls. A possible bylaw may be presented at the main April town meeting.
7. Chris Skelly's suggestion that we map the occurrence of stone walls in the town was discussed as was the potential availability of state funds for this purpose. The preferred outcome was that an investigation and recording of old mill sites in town would be a better use of our time and money.
8. There was discussion of plans for the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Susan has sent a request for additions to the committee. A public meeting has been scheduled for September 18 when preliminary plans will be discussed.
9. The next meeting of the Historical Commission was scheduled for September 25 at 5 pm.
10. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.