

Whately Historical Commission
March 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes

- I. Present: Donna Wiley (chair), Susan Baron, Alan McArdle, Judy Markland, Darcy Tozier
- II. Minutes of February 21th meeting approved.
- III. Town Hall Update
 - a. Report on March 19 Municipal Building Committee Meeting
 - b. Discussion of recommendations for items not yet completed that have historical significance:
 - i. Wainscoting painting – Commission reaffirmed previous vote to support painting of first floor and stairwell wainscoting.
 - ii. Window sill repair – Commission voted to support repairing sills and emphasized the need that work be done according to historic preservation standards.
 - iii. Slate roof on portico – Commission agreed not to take a position because the portico was not part of the original building.

The Commission agreed that, while the exterior parking lot work is not of historical significance, it will serve the town well to have a properly graded and paved parking lot to make the restored building as usable as possible. Donna Wiley will draft a letter to the Finance and Municipal Building Committees and the Selectboard stating our position.

The Commission agreed to support a Town Meeting warrant item for \$102,000 as approved at the Municipal Building Committee meeting to complete the project.
- IV. CPC Town Hall Funding Plan
 - a. Judy briefed the Commission on the detailed borrowing plan for the loan against future CPA funds. The plan includes a transfer of \$50,000 currently available in CPA funding, which will reduce the loan principal to \$350,000.
 - b. The Commission unanimously agreed to endorse the transfer of \$50,000 of CPA funds.
- V. Town Hall Name
 - a. The Commissions discussed Judy's proposal to return to the original name of Town Hall (Town House).
 - b. The Commission agreed to explore community reactions to a potential name change sometime after the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.
- VI. MACRIS Update
 - a. The Commission discussed the fact that there are two major components of a MACRIS update for Whately: updating the records of residences currently listed, and adding records for historically significant buildings not currently listed (we agreed on pre-WWII as the demarcation). We also agreed that the second phase will require professional assistance.
 - b. Having agreed to focus first on updating existing records, we decided to conduct one or two workshops in June for those whose homes are currently listed.

- c. We will invite participation through a combination of email and letters, depending on the availability of contact information, and supplement this effort with an article in the May 2018 Scoop. Donna will alert Brian and Mary Ellen that the Historical Commission will use its 2018 and 2019 budget allotments to support this large project.
- VII. 250th Celebration - Susan updated the Commission on plans. She asked the Commission to consider funding a \$75 prize that the 250th Celebration Committee has offered for development of a logo. The Commission determined that the award has no historic preservation significance and declined to provide funding.
- VIII. Commission Membership - The Commission reconfirmed Donna's chairmanship (through 2021) and her role as HC representative on the Community Preservation Committee.
- IX. Manheim Solar Array - The Commission has no objections to the proposed plan. Donna will write to the Planning Board on behalf of the Commission, using the same format we have used previously to request that work be stopped if archaeological remains are discovered.
- X. Next meeting - April 18, 2018 at 5pm at Town Offices.