



TOWN OF WHATELY

Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission
4 Sandy Lane
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Minutes of the May 14, 2018 Meeting 5 pm, Whately Town Offices

The minutes of the April 18 meeting were approved.

MACRIS project and the June Workshop

Donna reported on her conversation with Peter Stott of MHC about Form B revisions. He confirmed that, in the architecture section of the forms, they are not interested in interior details. For additions and changes, they want basic facts, not huge detail. In the history sections, they are primarily interested in information about things like a building's having been in the family for a long time or that it belonged to a person of note rather than a complete list of owners.

Judy commented that Stott had told her that there are two ways to update a form. The simplest is just to add information on a new continuation page to go at the end of the form. However, this means that someone will only find the information if they read to the end. The better update method is to fill out a completely new form and submit it to MHC. The old form will be appended to it.

There was a discussion of information sources to help with the form updates. Donna has found the online information at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds easy to access. Judy noted that the Crafts history of Whately is on line (The Historical Society's Resources page has a link.) and has a lot of information on where individuals lived in previous centuries. Ena Cane's history is more helpful on the names of streets and the history of commercial and civic buildings. In addition, the Assessor's office has information on building permits. Donna will check on how far back that information goes.

Another source is old maps, some of which contain the names of those living at that address at a certain date. Judy mentioned the Charles Waite map which shows where families lived in 1880. She will scan the version in the Cane history. Susan will ask Fred about other maps that might help. The library has CD's with digital copies of many historical Whately maps.

The group discussed the basic focus of the June 18 workshop and agreed that it should concentrate on explaining the MACRIS inventory and other sources for people to learn

about their house, and other buildings in town and around the state, An invitation will go out to everyone in the Scoop, and those with inventory forms will get a letter of invitation explaining that their house is included.ⁱ Donna will revise her drafts of both invitations to reflect the agreed upon workshop focus. Susan will ask Fred to help prepare the envelopes for mailing. Everyone will familiarize themselves with the various types of forms and Donna will prepare a preliminary Powerpoint and a list of supplemental resources for a handout for the workshop.

Judy and Donna will meet at the Historical Society on Tuesday the 22nd at 10am to learn about the Dufault book of Whately houses and other possible resources.

MHC grant reimbursement

Judy noted that MHC requires a revised form B for Town Hall to be completed prior to reimbursing the town's construction payments. The form will require photos of the completed exterior and information on the exterior changes. Judy will do the written part of the form and Alan will do the photography.

The next meeting will be on June 4 at 5pm to discuss the workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Markland

ⁱ Subsequent to the meeting it was decided to mail to all addresses on MACRIS.