



TOWN OF WHATELY Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

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Written correspondence should be addressed to:
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Minutes of the June 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting¹

Meeting participants: Donna Wiley, chair, Susan Baron, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle

The minutes of the February 17 meeting were unanimously approved.

Library Accessibility CPA application

The group briefly discussed the Library Trustees' application to the CPC for \$140,000 in funding for installation of a lift and reconfiguration of the existing restrooms into one accessible restroom. Judy noted that the project is eligible for CPA funds because the CPA legislation was amended to allow accessibility improvements on historic buildings. While not listed as a contributing building on the 2003 National Register Whately Center form, the library is now more than 50 years old and meets that standard.

Donna reported that the funding request was submitted as an 'off-cycle' application for funding at a special town meeting in the fall rather than at next spring's annual town meeting but that the CPC found no urgent reason in the request for this special treatment. It encouraged the Trustees to withdraw the application now and resubmit with more information in December. Donna will send Jim Ross the Secretary's Standards for accessibility work and ask him to provide information in the December application showing that these are being satisfied.

Scenic Road Bylaw Revision

Judy noted the Scenic Roads Bylaw is on the warrant for town meeting and that the warrant indicates that the whole text is being added to the bylaws, thus implying that there is no Scenic Roads bylaw now rather than that it's being amended. Donna will talk to Brian to try to get this changed before Town Meeting.

Town Hall Safe History

The laminated history is mounted at Town Hall and Donna obtained an extra laminated copy for our files for prudence sake.

250th Celebration

¹ Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6793597883>; Meeting ID: 679 359 7883

Susan reported that the 250th Committee is totally rethinking the celebration as a result of the pandemic. They have been asked to withdraw this year's request for Town funding due to the next year's uncertain revenue situation and no longer expect sizeable local business contributions. Social distancing will make many events difficult if not impossible. It will not be possible to afford the Shriners for the parade. Whately has been invited by Hatfield to join in their parade which has been postponed to next Memorial Day weekend, but the Committee has yet to make a decision whether to accept the offer or not.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Markland