



TOWN OF WHATELY Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

historicalcommission@whately.org

Written correspondence should be addressed to:
4 Sandy Lane, South Deerfield, MA 01373

Minutes of the February 15, 2021 Zoom Meeting¹, 5 pm

Meeting participants: Donna Wiley, chair, Judy Markland, and Alan McArdle. Susan Baron joined late in the meeting. Darcy Tozier did not attend.

The meeting was opened at 5:05 pm.

The minutes of the January 18 meeting were unanimously approved.

Scenic Roads

The group discussed the letter (attached) which Donna had drafted to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board outlining our proposal to add Strippe, Poplar Hill and Webber Roads to the Scenic Roads bylaw at the annual town meeting and soliciting their approval. The letter was approved as corrected. Donna will send it to Scott Jackson and Don Sluter.

Budget

There is roughly \$120 left in our budget for the year and Donna solicited ideas for its use. Judy suggested that perhaps it would be possible to start work on the Commission's 250th mapping project. This led to a discussion of what needs to be done and who might be hired to do the work. High school or college students were suggested. Donna will check with Allison Bell for suggestions on web designers, and Alan will check with his contacts.

250th Celebration

Susan reported that the main celebration week will start on June 18, 2022. The Whately firemen will organize a motor parade for the actual April anniversary. She confirmed that the Commission can assume funding for our project as long as it remains in the \$500-700 range.

The next meeting will be on March 15 at 5pm on Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Markland

¹ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623094744?pwd=SzhtdU9hbWxJd3k1MnF0c204c1ZJQT09>

Draft letter from Donna Wiley to Scott Jackson and Don Sluter, 2/14/21

Dear Scott and Don,

The Historical Commission voted at its January 18 meeting to name three additional scenic roads in Whately (Poplar Hill, Strippe and Webber Roads) beyond those that were named in 1973 (Chestnut Plain, Conway and Haydenville Roads and North Street). Before our vote, we consulted with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and reviewed the websites of many other towns. We chose these three roads because it is clear that protecting trees and historic stone walls on Town frontage property is the primary objective of the Massachusetts scenic roads bylaw (attached); you will see that scenic roads may be proposed by a Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, and/or Planning Board.

In Whately, applicants for a site plan review for large developments and large-scale solar ground-mounted installations, must identify 'scenic and historic resource areas identified in the [Open Space and Recreation Plan],' which include scenic roads. This does not mean that development is prohibited along such roads, but rather that the developer must consider scenic and historic resources in putting together an application and that the Planning Board should consider possible impact on those resources when considering the application.

We hope that the Conservation Commission and Planning Board will join the Historical Commission in recommending the designation of Poplar Hill, Strippe and Webber Roads as scenic at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. If it would be helpful for members of the Historical Commission to attend one of your upcoming meetings, please let us know.

Thanks,

Donna
on behalf of WHC