



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

historicalcommission@whately.org

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

MINUTES
WHATELY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING
February 20, 2023

Present: Susan Baron, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle, Donna Wiley
Robert Smith joined mid-meeting to discuss library proposal

Called to order 5:04 p.m.
Approved last minutes of 1/16/23

Center School:

Noted that the article in today's *Daily Hampshire Gazette* was a good summary of the Center School discussion at recent Select Board meeting.

Group discussion concluded that Historical Commission is in favor of a solution that saves the historic character of the school building. Commission is also in favor of a preservation restriction being put on exterior of the building.

Donna commented that demolishing the building would be environmentally irresponsible, resulting in tons of material going to landfill.

Suggestions for next steps:

- Offer building for sale
- Judy cited study done by George Dole that concluded a housing solution would be most feasible and noted that there are possibly housing grants available.

Grant sources to pursue:

- Green Communities grant, which is based on an inventory about a decade ago of energy use in municipal buildings
- housing production facilitation grant

We agreed to continue our conversation at next meeting. Judy will flesh out grant options.

Library CPA funding application:

Bob Klinger had invited Donna to join a recent meeting between Library Trustees and a mason to review the needed work on site at the library. Judy contacted George Dole, who wrote that he saw no problems with the proposed material.

Bob Smith joined meeting and explained details of the work, including center rail that needs to be replaced and drilled into the sidewalk, rather than the steps.

Library may need to close or restrict access for a few days while the handicapped ramp is removed to facilitate repairs.

Library has changed type of winter salt to prevent corrosion to steps.

Commission voted to recommend to CPC that grant be approved.

Quonquont application for CPC funding:

Allison Bell recused herself from the discussion.

Group discussed preservation restrictions for Quonquont silo project and agreed that right of first refusal does not make sense in this case but a payback provision similar to that for the Church does..

Committee will recommend that Quonquont be exempt from 20-year payback if failure to adhere to Secretary of the Interior's Standards is due to "acts of God", terrorism, natural disaster.

Other items:

Criteria for identification of likely archaeological sites to be discussed at March meeting. Alan is revising his draft document.

Discussion of North Street historic area form tabled until March meeting.

Next meeting 3/20 at 5 p.m.