



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

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

Whately Historical Commission minutes 12-18-23

Meeting called to order 5:05 pm

Present members: Allison Bell, Donna Wiley, Susan Baron, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle,
Also attending: Stephen Hussey and Steve Mikesell

Minutes from 11-20-23 approved.

Center School

Town has received two responses to RFP. At upcoming Select Board meeting, Brian Domina will recommend that a committee be formed to review these proposals. Donna volunteered to be the Historical Commission representative on that committee. Other Commission members agreed.

Stephen Hussey of Four Winds School in Gill had joined the meeting to ask if the Historical Commission was interested in partnering on purchasing the building. He knew that the RFP response deadline had passed. Donna explained that he had confused our committee with the Whately Historical Society.

Commission members noted that it is interesting that the proposals were very different. Neither proposal suggested that the Milk Bottle was an obstacle.

Applications for CPA funding:

—Request from Library to seal brick exterior. Library trustees are concerned that the brick, which was sandblasted at some previous point, is eroding. They have done research and found a good sealant product, with life of 8-12 years. Whately CPC has determined that this qualifies as “maintenance”, not restoration, and therefore is not eligible for funding.

—Request from Brian Domina for funds for Center School stabilization in the event that no one submitted a proposal to purchase. This is probably no longer needed since there have been proposals.

—Request for funds to restore sills on the “Yellow Barn”, next to Center Cemetery. Two options have been suggested: 1) a less expensive “modern” method using screws and steel, and 2) a slightly more expensive option with historic mortise and tenon technology. Nicholas Jones has amended his initial estimate for mortise and tenon work to \$6,500. It is not known whether modern technologies have been used before to repair the barn. Members agreed to recommend the less expensive option. Judy will revise the HC proposal. In terms of setting precedent, we should be clear why this choice was made.

CPA Historic Preservation Priorities

We will amend the Historic Preservation Priorities list as follows:

—Add “archaeological resources” to first bullet point to read: “Preserve and rehabilitate historically significant buildings, structures, archaeological resources and landscapes.”

Judy confirmed that CPA money can be used to conduct surveys.

—Amend fifth bullet point to read: “Update the existing inventory of historic structures, buildings, and houses, including tobacco barns, mill sites, and stone walls, and survey and document archaeological resources.”

North Street Area Project

In order to move ahead, members need to do enough research on the various topics in Judy’s outline to create 2-3 sentences for each. Purpose is to create a survey of the history of the area. Allison will collate a collection of historic newspaper articles and send to members. Committee agreed to get materials to Judy before our February meeting

HC Budget

Members discussed whether we need to increase our annual budget and agreed to renew the \$200 request.

No other business. Next meeting 1/15/24.

Meeting adjourned 5:53.