



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

WHATELY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 21, 2022

Present: Donna Wiley (chair), Susan Baron, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle.

Guest: Zachary Fouser

The meeting was conducted via Zoom and was recorded.

- The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm.
- Our guest, Zachary Fouser, a student at UMass Amherst, summarized his most recent work on stone walls in Whately and shared a map with us documenting his findings. He used different lighting angles on his base data from the Massachusetts GIS (Geographic Information System) and discovered many more possible stone walls in the western half of the town. He visited some of the areas he studied on foot and verified their presence and took photographs. Many of the walls he discovered followed roads and town and property boundaries. He has documented between 35 and 45 miles of stone walls which is surely an underestimate of the total.

A group discussion followed his presentation. Some of the topics included the general absence of walls in East Whately (river bottom land with few large stones) and the varying purposes of stone walls – marking boundaries, roads, sometimes pasture land with some built high enough to keep sheep enclosed. We also talked about some of the various reasons stone walls were built in the town over time.

- Minutes of meeting of February 21, 2022 approved unanimously.
- In other business, Susan Baron talked briefly about the need for marketing information for the 250th Anniversary concerning our Hidden History project. We will discuss the issue at our next Hidden History meeting in April.

Judy Markland noted that the Congregational Church has windows that are in need of significant repair. A Community Preservation Act request is likely to be presented soon, which we will need to comment on.

- Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alan McArdle