

**Whately Historical Commission**  
**August 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Donna Wiley (chair), Susan Baron, Allison Bell, Judy Markland, Alan McArdle. Meeting conducted via Zoom and was recorded.

- Meeting called to order at 5:05.
- Minutes of meeting of June 7, 2021 approved as amended.
- Marijuana retail site application at 424 State Road:
  - Planning Board has approved the site plan application. ZBA has requested more information regarding parking. No external changes to the site are planned.
  - Members agreed there is no need to provide comment to the Planning Board at this time as there is no impact on historic structures.
- Nourse Barn
  - Donna reported Nourse has done an excellent job restoring their old barn. Tim Nourse is interested in dating beams and had asked for contact information for Bill Flynt to do so.
  - Donna told Tim the barn is not in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Inventory. Donna suggested we request access to take photographs inside and outside before materials are moved into the barn. Judy commented that pre-renovation pictures would be of interest. Tim Nourse does not have documentation of the history of the barn. Donna provided information to Tim regarding a contact for a family member of the previous owner to see if they have documentation or old photographs. Judy suggested checking for documentation in the Historical Society archives. Donna will pursue gathering information.
- Duda Property:
  - Alan and Donna visited the new owners. The house has been renovated, altering the historic appearance, but the barn has not. Property includes one of the only surviving mill sites in Whately.
  - The new owner asked if there is money available to help with historic preservation. Donna expressed interest in proposing to the CPA to establish a no-interest revolving loan fund for that purpose, or some other source of support for historic preservation by private owners, in the future. Donna will conduct research as to how other towns approach this and report back.
- Hidden History Project
  - Allison, Alan and Donna have been meeting every few weeks and been in conversation with Juliet Jacobson, who has been able to advise on technical aspects. The team has settled on using Google Maps as the platform as it is simple to use and less expensive. Some technical assistance will still be needed.
  - There is a question regarding website support. Donna is investigating whether the Town's website has the capacity to host it. Susan said The 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration website probably will not endure well beyond the celebration, so does not address the desire for

this project to continue beyond the celebration. Donna spoke with Calla Jones to understand how the map she created was done.

- Donna shared an outline of topics being investigated, which was well received.
- Donna has requested the library subscribe to newspaper archives in order to aid with research into aspects being included in the Hidden History. Judy will check if access can be provided through the BPL.
- If library assistance does not seem likely, Donna will also submit a proposal for funding to the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee for subscriptions to newspaper archives. The proposal would also include funding for more time from Juliet Jacobson for technical assistance.
- Draft RFI for Center School
  - Brian has requested feedback on the Center School RFI before Wednesday's Select Board Meeting.
  - Judy suggested adding a note regarding potential preservation tax benefits and eligibility for CPA funding.
  - The Commission requests that the RFI note that the Milk Bottle must remain onsite and the Historical Society, as the owner, has sole access.
- Next meeting is scheduled for September 20. We will confirm a week prior to that date.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Baron