

## WHATELY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### MINUTES

**MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016**

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

Alan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Alan reported on the meeting with potential respondents to the Town Hall RFQ on July 14. Eleven architectural firms sent representatives to the meeting. Additional materials are being provided to the potential applicants via Dropbox, as promised during the informational meeting. The joint meeting of the Municipal Building Committee and Historical Commission to discuss responses to any questions received from potential applicants has been rescheduled from Monday, July 25, to Thursday, July 21, at 7 pm.

The Commission discussed briefly the report received from the Conway School regarding the Town Center Historic District. As the *ad hoc* Client Committee for the project has not yet met, the Historical Commission agreed to delay comments on the Conway School recommendations for the time being. Judy noted that the recommendations regarding sidewalks and crosswalks, as well as some aspects of parking, may be useful for the Town's application to the Complete Streets grant program, which she is preparing, together with Keith Bardwell and Fred Baron.

The Commission reviewed the list of potential public funding sources for the Town Hall rehabilitation, and agreed that any applications to private foundations may be more successful if made jointly with the Whately Historical Society and/or the Whately Historical Commission, depending on the specific guidelines of each possible source. We will discuss potential private sources at our next meeting, but agreed on the following:

- Susan will take the lead on the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. Focus may be window restoration.
- Donna will take the lead on the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. Likely focus may be HVAC systems and/or fire safety measures.

Judy reported that we are unlikely to be eligible to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), as the Town would need to update its Community Development Strategy, and it is unlikely that this will take place in time for an application.

We also agreed that Susan will contact Stan Rosenberg's office and that Donna will contact Steve Kulik's office about the project, as endorsement from state legislators is likely to be important to success in securing state funding.

Alan will contact Larry Kuttner to request a joint meeting of the Cultural Commission and Historical Commission to discuss opportunities for collaboration in fundraising.

We discussed the need to add members to the Commission with expertise in historic preservation and proposal writing, as well as the need to achieve geographic diversity among the membership, and will

pursue possible avenues to identify potential applicants. Melissa Caldwell has expressed interest but will not be available before the fall of 2016, because of other commitments.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 15, 5:00 p.m.