

Whately Historical Commission
June 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Donna Wiley - chair, Alan McArdle, Darcy Tozier, Susan Baron, Howard Nenner
Also present: Fred Orloski

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Minutes of May 14, 2019 meeting were accepted.
3. The storage shed requested by the Historical Society was approved by the Select Board. Brian Domina is attempting to discuss this with Paul Holtz at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, because of the preservation restriction on Town Hall. Brian will let us know when a letter from the Whately Historical Commission will be helpful.
4. Town Hall curtain restoration work is scheduled for September 11 and 12. The conservator has offered to give a talk to the public at that time.
5. Solicitation of bids for restoration work on the Town Hall safe will be advertised beginning July 8, noting the work is to be completed by January 31, 2020. Brian will send the RFP to the three conservators contacted by the Historical Commission last year and Donna will post it on the Massachusetts Historic Preservation ListServe
6. Fred Orloski has submitted two proposals to the CPC in the Historic Preservation category. Because Massachusetts state law requires that the local Historical Commission approve any such proposals before consideration by the CPC, Donna will communicate the results of HC deliberations on these proposals to Alan Sanderson before the next CPC meeting on June 26.
 - a. Exhibit of school history - Commission unanimously voted to decline to support the Schools Exhibit proposal, as the only component that might be eligible for CPA support would be the preservation of specific historic artifacts. Fred had been through the Center School and had not identified anything specific as of our meeting. Darcy noted that the Historical Society put on an exhibit about the Whately Schools only a few years ago and has a lot of material. We urged Fred to convene a small group, including representatives of the Schools Committee, Historical Society and 250th Celebration Committee, to develop a plan and identify a project director. We also said that if that effort results in the identification of historic artifact(s) that may warrant preservation, they could submit a proposal for that work in time for the December CPC deadline.
 - b. Book of history of Whately 1971-present - Commission voted unanimously to decline support for the "history book" proposal, as the funds requested are not eligible for CPA funding, and encouraged Fred to work with the 250th Celebration Committee
7. Donna and Howard reported that a group of residents on the north end of Chestnut Plain Road recently brought to the Select Board a number of concerns regarding traffic, light pollution and maintenance of Town-owned frontage. Following general discussion, the Historical Commission was asked to provide input regarding maintenance and possible usage of Town-owned frontage in the Historic District. After extensive discussion,

including some speculation about policies in neighboring towns, such as Hatfield and Sunderland, the Commission agreed to send a letter with several objectives: to provide information regarding historical use of the 'town common'; to note that all private property in Whately includes some Town-owned frontage; to decline support for the creation of a 'park' using Town-owned frontage in the Historic District; and to suggest a process for further consideration of these issues if the Select Board wishes to pursue that idea. Donna will draft the letter for review for Historical Commission members.

8. Donna spoke with Keith Bardwell about his request that the Town identify specific criteria regarding the maintenance of trees and stone walls along designated scenic roads. (The existing bylaw provides no details.) Keith has agreed to attend an upcoming Commission meeting to discuss; we hope to schedule that discussion in July and August.
9. Donna sent the list of destroyed buildings developed by the Commission to Peter Stott at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, noting that the David Graves house was not destroyed, but disassembled and stored in a barn at Historic Deerfield.
10. Donna has agreed to present the Town Hall rehabilitation story at Preservation Massachusetts' annual conference in Plymouth in September 20. (This will be essentially the same presentation made by Alan and Donna at a FRCOG meeting in March.) The program is not yet available, but perhaps other Commission members will be available to attend, as well.
11. We agreed to return to the previous practice of meeting on the third Monday of each month, to the greatest extent possible, but will decide whether meetings are necessary on both July 15 and August 19 depending on Keith Bardwell's availability and other agenda items. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Baron