



TOWN OF WHATELY
Whately, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Meeting
5:30 pm, Whately Town Hall

Present: Susan Baron, Judy Markland, Donna Wiley

Also present: Keith Bardwell

The minutes of the November 18 meeting were approved unanimously.

Scenic Road Bylaw

The group discussed a draft of proposed revisions to the existing Scenic Road Bylaw (attached). The bylaw simply references the state law enabling towns to establish Scenic Roads and establishes some protection for trees and stone walls within the public way on those roads. Town counsel has verbally opined that the town may exclude routine items from the public hearing requirement in the state law. The proposed revisions establish criteria for excluding certain repairs of stone walls and removal of dead or seriously compromised trees from the public hearing requirement and add criteria for the Planning Board's determination.

As a result of the discussion, it was determined to revise the draft to define "significant trees" as those with a diameter of six inches or more and to insert a new item (4) in paragraph C stating "Where trees are removed under the provisions of (2) and (3), efforts shall be made to plant appropriate substitutes."

Keith noted that the bylaw has not been enforced for curb cuts for driveways for new construction and that these should also be excluded. Judy commented that there is merit in holding a public hearing in case there are alternative sites for the driveway, such as at the side of the lot, which our zoning allows by special permit. She was also concerned that the more exemptions we have from the public hearing requirement, the less likely the Attorney General's office is to approve it. Judy will check with Brian Domina about the advisability of including driveway cuts as an exemption.

Whately Center Plan

Donna shared the plan for reconstructing the sidewalks and street side parking in Whately Center under the Complete Streets grant. Sidewalks will be moved, parking and access at the Inn reconfigured, parking added in front of the Library, and crosswalks added in several locations (as determined during the Conway School Town Center study in 2015). The Commission discussed

whether the crosswalk leading from the Center School driveway to the cemetery will be safe for pedestrians.

The open meeting for review of the plans included information about the location of the crosswalks, but little about the configuration or lighting plans. Donna will ask participants on the listserv for suggestions on appropriate lighting/signage for crosswalks in historic areas. Donna will write to Brian and Keith to indicate the Historical Commission's interest in seeing an elevation and information about the lighting for the crosswalks before the plan is made final.

HC Map for the 250th

Donna distributed large copies of the previously emailed Gordon Ainsworth historic Whately map that had been prepared for the Bicentennial. And Judy and Donna distributed lists of historic sites that they recommended be included in the HC's map (attached). Judy's list contemplated separate online 'layers' of subjects such as the history of transportation in Whately, the location of schools, sites of mills, location of dairy farms, hotels and taverns, etc. This type of layering would require technical expertise that the HC doesn't itself possess.

We discussed how to approach the school about defining the project, specifically how much we should do in advance or how much the students should do. Donna will again contact the faculty. We noted that the lists needed to be refined so that the basic map would not be too dense and agreed that this should await a meeting when everyone is present.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 20th – and was subsequently set to start at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Markland

Attachment 1

Proposed Whately Scenic Roads Bylaw

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this article is to maintain the rural, natural, historic and scenic character of the town's roads.
- B. In accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 15C, Chestnut Plain Road including North Street, Haydenville Road and Conway Road are designated as Scenic Roads.
- C. Any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work to be done within the public way of a Scenic Road that will involve or include (i) cutting down or removing significant trees or (ii) tearing down, burial, relocation, or destruction of stone walls or portions thereof shall require prior written approval of the Planning Board after a public hearing, except no public hearing will be required for
 - (1) repair and replacement of stone walls in kind, with no change in appearance.
 - (2) removal of trees deemed by the Tree Warden to be a public hazard to public safety.
 - (3) removal of trees determined by the Tree Warden to be dead, beyond saving, or a threat to neighboring trees.
- D. The Planning Board shall hold a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of a properly filed request and shall make a decision within 45 days of that receipt, unless a longer time is agreed to by the applicant.
- E. In evaluating the request, the Planning Board shall consider preservation of natural resources; environmental issues; historical values; scenic and aesthetic characteristics; public safety; existence or absence of reasonable alternatives; compensatory actions proposed, such as tree and wall replacement; and the functional importance and urgency of repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving.
- F. Failure of the Planning Board to make its decision and file it with the Town Clerk within the time allotted shall be construed as approval of the request.

Attachment 2
Donna's list of items for the Whately history map(s).

Possible Sites for Historic Tour of Whately 12/16/19	
Whately Dock	
Maplewood Hotel	
East School	Schools?
Belden's Paint Factory	
Thomas Crafts Studio	
Railroad Station/Post Office/Wood's General Store	Post Offices?
Belden's Paint Factory	
George & Jack's Cider Mill	
Quonquont	
Roote's General Store	
Stockade	
Pound	
Allis Water Works/Whately Water District	
Congregational Church	
Wet Whately Chapel	
Sanderson's Rope and Dish Mop Factory	
	Cemeteries?
	Corner Stones (Dereka)
	Shay's Rebellion houses
	Privileges/mills?
	Private homes:
	Scott
	Wheelock
	Grimes

Attachment III

Judy's list of items for the Whately history map(s).

I. Basic Map

West Whately

Cemetery

Chapel

Justin & Diadama Smith House and Mill, 144 Conway Road (MHC#78)

Mill at 23 Conway Rd (Bob Duda's)

W. Whately Schoolhouse, 153 Conway Rd (MHC #80)

Bardwell Barn & Mill at 159 Haydenville Rd

Dexter Morton Mill Site, Dry Hill Rd.

Harvey Brook Mill Site, Williamsburg Rd.

Whately Center

Pound

Church

Town Hall

Post Office

Inn

Stockade monument

Library

Cemetery Barn

Cemetery

Center School

Milk Bottle

Quonquont

Arrowhead rock?

Claverack

South Center School, 26 Claverack Rd.

Thomas Crafts House, 1 LaSalle Dr.

South School, 13 State Road

Whately Diner

East Whately

E. Whately Post Office, 109 Christian Lane

Sawmill, 155 Christian Lane

Elijah Woods house (broom corn magnate), 166 Christian Lane

E. Whately Cemetery

East School (site of Stockbridge House & Maplewood Hotel)

Chick-a-Dee Potato Chip Company, 203 Long Plain Rd.

Colbro Workers' Housing, 199 Long Plain Rd.

Site of Belden Stockade, 179 Christian Lane

II. Additional Layers for Online/Interactive Use

Transportation history

Ferry landing

Road layouts with dates

Stage route (if known)

Connecticut Valley RR

Trolley

NH railroad

Interstate 91

Dairies and poultry farms

Fairview Farms

Scotts

Belders

Hillside

Stockade Poultry

Poplar Hill Farm

Important tobacco farming sites

Mill and industry sites

Carriage making

Corn brooms

Paint

Ink making

Rope and dishmops

Damon's bottling works

Merilatt cabinet making

Deerfield urethane

Yankee Candle

Potteries

Schools

Restaurants, hotels, taverns

Post Offices