

Whately Historical Commission
November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- Present: Donna Wiley (Chair), Alan McArdle, Darcy Tozier, Judy Markland, Susan Baron
- Members voted to unanimously accept the revised minutes from the October 21 meeting.
- Town Safe Restoration
 - Commission members met with Lisa Mehlin, who is restoring the Town's 1891 safe. Lisa explained the process involved in the restoration. Commission members agreed to look into acquiring full-spectrum LED lights to be mounted from the ceiling to allow Town Hall visitors to see the details of the safe.
 - Donna noted that, in the CPA application for Town Safe Restoration, the Historical Commission committed to preparing a written history of the safe to be displayed in Town Hall. The Commission will discuss the format in which this is to be presented once the content has been determined.
- Cemetery Stone Restoration CPA Application
 - The Cemetery Commission is requesting CPA funds to continue the restoration work outlined in the 2012 Whately Cemetery Masterplan. Darcy noted that additional funds are needed beyond what has already been received as the Cemetery Commission did not receive a (\$5,000) grant from the Veterans Preservation Project (VPP) and additional damage has occurred to stones during the past few years. The Historical Commission agreed to endorse the CPA funds application. The Historical Commission also recommends that the Cemetery Commission resubmit a grant application for the VPP.
- 250th Celebration
 - Donna reported that Darcy, Calla Jones and Donna met to discuss a project involving developing paper and digital maps, potentially with a related app, providing visitors with a self-guided tour of historical sites within Whately.
 - Alan shared that UniGuide is an app with audio guides, which will upload the Town's content for free.
 - Donna spoke with James Golden at Historic Deerfield and reported that they are in the midst of a 3-year transition to Cuseum. Historic Deerfield's research has shown that the maximum length for audio clips for visitors is 90 seconds.
 - Donna has spoken with two teachers at Frontier Regional High School, Kevin Murphy and Jesse Merrick, who suggested a paper map, Google map with pins and geocaching for this project. They believe this would be a good project for a student pursuing independent study. Kevin has a drone that could be used for photographing historic locations. Donna will speak with these teachers about the process for engaging students.
 - It was agreed that the Historical Commission should develop a preliminary list of locations/objects to be included in the tour. Each member is to bring a list of suggestions to the next meeting.
 - Susan noted that the 250th Celebration Committee will need a rough budget by early January in order to include this project in the "menu" of events for fundraising sponsorship.
- The next meeting will be held December 16 at 5:30 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Baron