

Approved 1-10-24

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Via Remote Participation

Members Present: James McCrohon, Guy Corbosiero, Mary Harrington, Yvonne Harrington, Jenelle Sroczynski

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Meeting called to order: 4:02p.m.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the September 13, 2023 regular meeting as presented, Corbosiero/ M. Harrington, 5-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:06 pm.

Announcements: Chairwoman Harrington announced that Ms. Sroczynski has been sworn in and is now a member of the Commission. Mr. O'Neil has set up an email account through the town for the Commission. Ms. Harrington will be the primary point of contact. Ms. Harrington will be working on an action plan of things to be addressed for 2024. She would like to see the Commission come in line with the goals outlined by the Master Plan. Ms. Harrington is interested in seeking to create a part time position to work on behalf of the Commission in town hall. Ms. Sroczynski mentioned budget season starts in January, and this would be a good time to approach Town Manager McKinney with the idea. Overall, the Commission would like to become more visible and active, finessing relationships with other town departments, attending local informational and resource meetings, and connecting with the public.

Member Comments: Ms. Yvonne Harrington has reached out to Ms. Lynn Murray and Ms. Gail Allo regarding their potential interest in becoming members. She explained a letter of interest will have to be sent to the Town Manager's office before an appointment can be made. Ms. Y. Harrington also attended the Pioneer Valley Conference and found it to be a great resource of information and networking. MACRIS is a valuable tool for grant writing and state assistance. Identifying and re-purposing of old industrial buildings and cemetery preservation were some of the important topics discussed. Ms. Harrington is planning on attending meetings.

Mr. McCrohon has been busy with online workshops. He has completed 4 on line certificates and is now certified in classic architecture. He is moving on to colonial architecture. This is a two part series and he will have it completed before next meeting. The Master Plan Committee will be informed that this is completed as well, as it is an action item. The Commission is interested in helping owners who may need some guidance with restoration. More information will follow. Mr. McCrohon explained there are four different treatments for historic structures. They are: preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use. He also mentioned the on line citizen planner as a resource.

Mr. Corbosiero mentioned there is a wonderful recital happening at St. Mary's church on December 17, 2023.

Bobby Arcici is the guest performer.

Ms. Sroczynski noted she would like to see the Commission be more visible. She suggested a booth at Fall Fest, perhaps a quarterly article in the Courier, or a Facebook page. *Motion to have Ms. M. Harrington create and maintain a Facebook page on behalf of the Historic Commission, Sroczynski/Y. Harrington, 5-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:53 pm.*

It was mentioned to ask Mr. David Plummer to be an alternate member.

Ms. M. Harrington would like to acknowledge the years of service from Ms. Lois Abare and Ms. Peg Corbosiero. Ms. M. Harrington is planning on purchasing a token of appreciation. There were some comments heard regarding concerns over the public comment section of the proposed Facebook page. Members are worried about negativity and rudeness. Ms. Sroczynski would like to amend her prior motion. *Motion to take creation of Facebook page under advisement and discuss at upcoming meetings Sroczynski/Y. Harrington, 4-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 5:05 pm.* Ms. M. Harrington will look into social media guidelines and settings.

Public Comments: None were heard.

Old Business:

No updates

New Business:

Ms. M. Harrington has received an inquiry regarding the purchase of property on Hall Road. There was a question regarding the barn on the property. It is in disrepair, and it is not known if repairs can't be made, can it be torn down? Ms. Harrington referred the potential buyer to MA General Laws, Town of Winchendon By-laws, and the Building Commissioner.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 4pm.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn Sroczynski/McCrohon, 4-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 5:10 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:
