

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Jay McCronon, Peg Corbosiero, Guy Corbosiero, Mary Harrington, Gerry Harrington

Members Absent: Lois Abare, Don O'Neil, Mary Harrington, Gerry Harrington

Others Present: Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order: 3:04 p.m.

Announcements: None were heard

Member Comments: None were heard

Public Comments: None were heard

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the March 12, 2023 regular meeting McCronon/P. Corbosiero, 3-0 aye by roll call vote @ 3:07pm

Updates:

Chairman Corbosiero has the financial information from Asst. Town Accountant Deeana Macknamara. The following account information was provided.

General Fund Account Balance \$450

Cumberland Farms Account Balance \$10,000

Militia Field Account Balance \$31,859

The Militia Field account was established in 1987. This account can't go below \$ 20,000 per town meeting vote. It can be used to maintain the field. The Commission can spend up to \$11,859. Mr. McCronon will start on proposals for planting material and present to the Commission for vote.

Old Business:

54 Mechanic Street: Mr. O'Neil signed off on permit. The intention is to tear the building down piece by piece and sell off.

Master Plan Update: This is the list of items the Commission is reviewing:

1. Reexamine Winchendon's Reconnaissance Report-the report is being reviewed.
2. Be proactive about preserving historic structures- Ms. G. Harrington is learning her way around MACRIS. She has discovered 486 listings in town and 100 different areas. It is quite an undertaking. She will continue work on list and report back to Commission in June.
3. Implement preservation restrictions on historic properties to protect historic structures from being demolished or excessively altered-This item is being reviewed.
4. Find a way to prevent "demolition by neglect"- By-laws will need to be reviewed. Ms. M. Harrington will look into this item.
5. Encourage Commission members to seek out training in modern preservation tools. This could be in person or on line- The Commission would like to see an increase in the annual budget for trainings like these.

There was also discussion regarding the redesign of Blair Square. The Commission would like to be involved if this project ever comes to fruition.

Brownfield Grants: No update was provided.

Electrical Lines on Old Centre Common: No update was provided.

Wildlife Habitat Replacement on Militia Field: It was discussed using some of the Militia Field Account for the plantings. This way some fall plantings can occur, rather than waiting until next spring for a potential Robinson-Broadhurst award. Mr. McCronon has also been in contact with Ms. Jennifer Forman of MA Wildlife. They discussed the invasive species of several planting that are occurring. There may be a grant opportunity to get rid of these species. Mr. McCronon will pursue information.

New Plantings on Old Centre Common: This is an ongoing item. Mr. McCronon will continue this action item.

Historic District Signs: This item is under review. Ms. G. Harrington will continue to look into signs.

Historic Commission Communication: An email account for the Historic Commission has been established. It is unclear who will be monitoring the email account.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for May 10, 2023.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn McCronon/P. Cobosiero 3-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 3:44 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:

