

Winchendon Historic Commission

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 12 2023**  
**Via Remote Participation**

**Members Present:** Jay McCrohon, Guy Corbosiero, Mary Harrington, Gerry Harrington

**Members Absent:** Lois Abare

**Others Present:** Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary, Ben Ewing, Resident

**Meeting called to order: 4:00 p.m.**

**Announcements:** Chairwoman Harrington commented she and Ms. Gerry Harrington had attended the most recent BOS Meeting to introduce themselves as the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission. The introduction went well. She also announced the file cabinet housing the Commission's information has been located. She will be coordinating with Don O'Neil for access. She has also spoken to DPW Executive Assistant Brittany Ellis regarding the Old Centre Stone Cleaning Project. Lastly, she stated there is a new Interim Town Manager on staff, Mr. Bill McKinny who brings a great amount of experience to the table. A search committee is being formed for a permanent manager.

**Member Comments:** Ms. G. Harrington informed the Commission she attended via Zoom a Central Mass Milltown Caucus. It was extremely informative, and was attended by a variety of Planning Board and municipal employees. Ms. Harrington was the only representative of a Historic Commission. The focus was how to re-hab and find uses for all of the old mill buildings. Discussion revolved around topography, demographics, and funding. Mr. Corbosiero will forward more meeting/educational information he receives through the CMR/MRPC. Mr. McCrohon commented he was concerned over a statement made at the last meeting regarding Winchendon being classified as a bedroom community. He is concerned over potential tax ramifications. Mr. Corbosiero stated that due to lack of industry and jobs Winchendon is already a bedroom community. Mr. McCrohon also briefed the Commission on YouTube programming from the ICAA regarding classic architect style prior to 1930. This is beneficial in identifying historic buildings, and then preserving them. A link will be distributed. Chairwoman Harrington followed up that she did have a chance to speak with former Town Manager Justin Sultzbach. He provided her with useful information such as, what buildings to focus on, and potential funding sources. She also stated no official letters of interest have been received to join the Commission.

**Public Comments:** None were heard.

**Minutes:**

*Motion to approve minutes of the June 14, 2023 regular meeting , G. Corbosiero/G. Harrington, 4-0 aye by roll call vote @ 4:26 pm.*

**Updates:**

Mr. Corbosiero confirmed the Commission's annual budget of \$1000 was replenished on July 1, 2023. All other accounts remain in balance.

**Old Business:**

Old Centre District Sub Committee: The Commssion is seeking members to join this sub-committee. It is unclear if it can only be Commission members or can the public be involved? This item will be looked into.

Brownfield Grants: No update was provided.

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

Wildlife Habitat Replacement on Militia Field: Mr. McCrohon has a proposal for plantings. He is hoping to apply for a Robinson-Broadhurst Grant this year. Ms. G. Harrington suggested the grant Mr. MacDougall wrote may have some information that could aid in this project.

New Plantings on Old Centre Common: This is an ongoing item. Mr. McCrohon will continue this action item. Ms. M. Harrington would like to hold off on new plantings until the lines are buried.

Historic District Signs: Ms. G. Harrington is continuing her work. Dennis Whitcomb was mentioned as a potential person to contact to make signs. She would like to keep the signs consistent with the ones on the Common. She liked the Town of Ashburnham's signs and feels this is a good example. Ms. M. Harrington would like to see speed limit signs/speed bumps. This would need to go through the DPW or Police Department.

MACRIS: Chairwoman Harrington has watched Youtube videos on how to navigate the software. She is making progress, and will be seeking out more information.

Historic Commission Communication: This is an ongoing issue. Chairwoman Harrington will be working with IT Director Don O'Neil to get email addresses established.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for August 9, 2023 at 4pm.

**Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn G. Harrington/Corbosiero 4-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:42 pm.*

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:42pm.**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jenelle Sroczynski  
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:

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