

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Via Remote Participation

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

Members Absent: Lois Abare,

Others Present: Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary, Jill Sackett, Master Plan Member

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

Announcements: Chairman Corbosiero announced he and Peg Corbosiero are not renewing their membership in June. They are leaving the Commission. Mr. Don O'Neil has also resigned. Ms. Nicky Nickerson may be interested in joining the Commission. She will be contacted.

Member Comments: None were heard

Public Comments: Ms. Sackett is in attendance to speak on the Master Plan Update.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the April 12, 2023 regular meeting G. Harrington/P. Corbosiero, 5-0 aye by roll call vote @ 4:04 pm.

Updates:

Chairman Corbosiero has the financial information from Asst. Town Accountant Deana 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. McCrohon will start on proposals for planting material and present to the Commission for vote. Ms. G Harrington is interested in seeing the actual article from town meeting. Mr. Corbosiero stated these were articles 5 & 6 from the May 18, 1987 town meeting, and its purpose is for perpetual care. The Commission would like to consult with Mr. Croteau regarding maintenance .

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: Ms. Sackett is in attendance asking for some updates.

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. Ms. Sackett agrees this MACRIS is overwhelming, but needs to be updated.
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. Mr. McCrohon has sent out training information. Ms. Sackett suggested trainings through Western Mass Preservation Commission. Ms. Sackett also suggested reaching out to Ms. Nicky Nickerson, resident of Old Centre to ask her if she would like to become a member.

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 sent a list of invasive species, he has also contacted the state to inquire on state funding for this. The Commission is concerned that no chemicals are used in the removal of the species. Mr. Corbosiero stated that at the Community Park, volunteers pulled weeds and unwanted planting by hand.

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. 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 as well.

Historic Commission Communication: This is an ongoing issue. It was discussed having individual email accounts on the Town's web page so contact can be made directly to members. Mr. O'Neil or Ms. Daigle would have to set these up for the Commission.

Ms. M. Harrington announced she is interested in securing the Chair of the Commission. The reorganization will take place at next month's meeting.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for June 14, 2023 at 4pm.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn M. Harrington/P. Coboslero 5-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:53 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:
