

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Via Remote Participation

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

Members Absent: Lois Abare, Don O'Neil

Others Present: Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order: 3:02 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the February 8, 2023 regular meeting P. Corbosiero/G. Harrington, 4-0 aye by roll call vote, 1 abstention @ 3:10pm.

Chairman Cobosiero explained he will handle the tree issue on the Old Centre Common as he does not have a conflict of interest being on the Board of the Historical Society. Chairman Cobosiero would like to see the following items added to the next agenda:

Public/Member comments and Historical Commission Finances.

New Business:

Chairman Corbosiero received a call from Asst. Town Accountant Deeana Macknamara just before the meeting. She confirmed the following information:

The Historical Commission is in possession of 3 accounts. The first account is the spending account through the town appropriation. There is \$475 balance in the account as of present. The Cumberland Farms account has a balance of \$10,000. And the final account is a trust fund account set up for the Militia Field at Old Centre. There has been \$20,000 deposited in that account for the past three years. More research needs to be done on the Militia Field account and Chairman Corbosiero will meet with Ms. Macknamara to discuss. The Commission would like to see monthly reports on the balances of these accounts. Mr. Corbosiero is confident that with a new town accountant on board this can be achieved.

Mr. McCronon stated the BOS indicated the Blair Square rehab project is getting started. The Commission wants to be involved and proactive in the project as some older buildings may be in jeopardy of demolition. The Commission will keep on top of this project.

Old Business:

54 Mechanic Street: A demolition permit has not been applied for. There is no update.

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"-Ms. M. Harrington stated this is exactly what happened to Pleasant View and Joseph's store. 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- Mr. McCronon stated there is an on line training on March 20, 2023 at 10 am.through the Berkshire Planning Commission. It is free of charge, and members must register on line. The Commission would like to see an increase in the annual budget for trainings like these.

Brownfield Grants: It was noted that Bullspit received a \$150,000 grant through MRCP.

The item will remain on the agenda for one more month.

Electrical Lines on Old Centre Common: Mr. Corbosiero will reach out to DPW Director Brian Croteau for an update. Either the Town Manager or Mr. Croteau will be the National Grid point of contact.

Wildlife Habitat Replacement on Militia Field: A Robinson-Broadhurst grant will be applied for in the fall for this project.

New Plantings on Old Centre Common: Mr. Corbosiero will be discussing this at an upcoming BOS meeting on March 27, 2023. There should be no plantings until the electrical line project is completed. He will update the Commission in April.

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

Historic Commission Communication: Mr. Corbosiero had spoken with the Town Manager. Mr. O'Neil will update web page.

Next scheduled meeting-Scheduled for April 12, 2023.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn McCronon/P. Cobosiero 4-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 4:06 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 4:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:
