

Approved 9-13-23

Winchendon Historic Commission

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
Via Remote Participation

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

Members Absent: Lois Abare

Others Present: Jenelle Sroczynski, Recording Secretary

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

Announcements: Per previous discussions, Chairwoman Harrington validated the WHC files are located upstairs in the old police station. Mr. Don O'Neil will give access when needed. In turn, she wanted to re-address digitizing and accessibility. Ms. Harrington is planning on spending some time at Town Hall to connect with people and introduce herself and help sync the Commission with the town. She met with Brian Croteau, DPW Director. She plans to meet with Geoff Newton, Building Commissioner, Bill McKinney, Interim Town Manager, and BOS Chairwoman Audrey LaBrie. Topics to include grants, cemeteries and preservation of the 50-year plus structures. She also intends to reach out to historical/preservation community organizations – regional, county, state.

Member Comments: Mr. Guy Corbosiero provided the contact name of Chris Skelly who is an important figure and wealth of information in the Historic Community. There was discussion around "Senate School" which is a 3 day mock session at the State House to learn about proposed bills, bill debates, and votes. The importance of the relationship between the local and state level was stressed as this is how funding is provided. Mr. McCrohon spoke of the links he had sent to Ms. Sroczynski to forward to members. They were from the Institute for Classical Architecture. He also spoke of historic signs that due to the level of illiteracy, housed no words, only pictures. These videos are a great tool to help identify historic elements/styles in homes around Winchendon. The Commission is still looking to fill vacant seats. Ms. M. Harrington will reach out to Ms. Abare and Ms. Lynn Murray.

Public Comments: None were heard.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the July 12, 2023 regular meeting, G Corbosiero/G Harrington, 4-0 aye by roll call vote @ 4:40 pm. Ms. Sroczyński to change video link information to ICAA.

Updates:

Financial Update: The Commission is now utilizing Fiscal 2024 funding. Ms. M. Harrington is interested in securing a membership with the Grant Station. She feels it will be a helpful tool for grant information and grant writing. The proposed cost is \$300-\$500 for 2 seats. Mr. Corbosiero asked if she could start with one seat, and if needed add another? *Motion to approve a 3 month membership to Grant Station for 1 seat, and not to exceed \$350, G Harrington/G Corbosiero 4-0 aye by roll call vote @ 4:49.*

Old Business:

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

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. Ms. M. Harrington will reach out to David Whitaker regarding cutting of the hay.

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. No update was provided.

MACRIS: Chairwoman Harrington has printed the entire list. It can be exported to Excel, and sorted by date. There is information that will need to be added and documentation will be provided. Ms. M. Harrington will continue her work.

Education: Mr. McCrohon has sent out video links on architectural styles, and the members enjoyed the information. It will be very helpful for the MACRIS information to identify the styles. The next video will be on Greek Classic.

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 September 13, 2023 at 4pm.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn G Harrington/Corbosiero 4-0 Approved by roll call vote @ 5:14 pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jenelle Sroczynski
Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:
