

Minutes for the Historical Commission
7:15 p.m. June 11, 2013
Town Room, Town Hall

Present: Michael Hanke, chair; Nathaniel Malloy, town liaison; Matthew Cornell and Meg Vickery, Laura Lovett, Judith Moran and Lynda Faye.

Announcements: Staff announced that Town Meeting passed our projects for CPA

Minutes: The minutes from the April 9 meeting and May 14: Matt moved to accept them and Judy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes.

New Business:

- a. Demolition Delay Application: 52 N. Prospect St.. Heidi Flanders from Integrity Development came to discuss the renovation of a barn on the back of the property to make living quarters for the owners. The doors, windows and siding would be removed as would the slate roof which would be replaced with a metal roof. This will be the biggest change. In an effort by the owners to retain the character of the interior, there will be new insulation and siding added to exterior of the structure, as well as new windows and doors, and a new metal roof. The window pattern will change slightly on the exterior and a new deck with double doors will be added to the southern façade. The garage door facing east (and down the driveway toward the street will be removed during construction and then replaced). The new siding will be vertical pine with ship-lap joints for a smooth texture. The cupola, measuring roughly 22 feet by 15 feet will remain as an open-air space accessed from the interior.

Laura moved not to have a Demolition Delay but to grant permission for the proposed changes. The rest of the Commission was in favor, though Mike Hamke abstained as he know the owners. The commission felt that we should encourage this sort of reuse of older, barn-structures in town because it is a thoughtful update that balances preservation of the structure with a new use. Meg motioned to approve and congratulated the owners on their sensitive re-use. Laura seconded the motion.

- b. Senator Rosenberg: Mike reported that the Senator is very interested in our efforts to preserve local history surrounding the Civil War, specifically in the cemetery and Civil War tablets. He would like to meet with the Commission to discuss plans for the tablets and money for their interpretation. The Commission has \$40,000 for the tablets and \$20,000 for landscaping in the cemetery. The commission discussed how we might organize an architectural competition with set parameters for design and clear criteria for interpretation. The Commission will look for a time in July when it can meet with the Senator.

- c. West Cemetery Projects:
 - a. Dickinson Fence: Staff reported that the consultant was coming this week to take down the fence and would like to remove the cedar growing nearby. Tree Warden Alan Snow has said that the tree is a volunteer and can at least be cut back. Some of the stone is loose and needs re-setting. The consultant recommends laying stone beneath the fence so the DPW doesn't weed-whack it and cause damage. Alan Snow wants to establish sheep to graze the cemetery as a means of keeping the grass short and not damaging the grave stones. Meg will write a letter of support for the sheep grazing. Staff will submit a letter of support to Alan Snow for the removal of the trees and Mike will get in touch with Alan.
 - b. Lighting: plans are going ahead.
 - c. Tomb: we are getting estimates from Whirlwind for a dry-laid stone wall built according to the engineer's plans.
 - d. Signs: signage is on Mike's desk and he will send them to Staff asap. Then Staff will send them to possibly bidders.
- d. Demolition Delay ByLaw: Mike raised the question of the language about association with an historical figure as being one of the biggest challenges in the law as it now stands. The biggest change to be effected will be in the appeals process. Staff recommends making changes to the bylaw and then he will amend it according to what the members think best. Do we need to adjust the criteria, add something broader and how to make it very clear?
- e. Letters:
 - a. Matt and Mike are drafting a letter to the owner of the red barn on 116
 - b. North Common Letter: add a one year deadline
 - c. Traffic Changes: letter with some revisions is needed.
 - d. Letter to Stephanie Cicarello about the Town Farm is good to go.
- f. Writers Walk Signs: Laura has questions about what materials Jim Wald had and needs the names of relevant writers. Staff will send what he has to Laura. Prof. John Olson is the person heading up this project with students at UMass. There should be many components to be publicized.

Old Business:

- a. CPA criteria for private property: other towns have set up criteria for property owners and the Commission should do the same. Staff will email us some possibilities.
- b. Committee Reports: NA
- c. Public Outreach: writers walk should be completed by Dec.
- d. NHR nominations
- e. Preservation Awards: HC decided on design by Mike.

Next Meeting: to be Announced.