



Historical Commission

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Notice Agenda – Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lynn Caulfield Lak, Kathy Galford, Mary Midura, Cindi LaBombard, Marty Rohan, Cynthia Allen, Tracy Opalinski

Absent: Lorrie Willette, Wanda Mysona

1. Administrative

a. Approve minutes from May 21, 2018

Lynn Lak noted that the minutes incorrectly listed Mary Midura as a member of the Friends of Town Hall.

Kathy Galford made the Motion to Approve the Amended Minutes of May 21, 2018; Mary Midura seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Chairman Lak requested to take Item #3 out of order.

Old Business & Updates

a. Hitchcock Building

Lynn Lak referred to a June 22, 2018 email from Cynthia Allen with points to consider regarding the building and façade. The lip of the proposed roof would meet code. The Historical Commission would prefer to keep original character of the façade; estimated cost is approximately \$15,000. Cindi LaBombard stated she is not in favor of a flat roof, as most New England buildings need pitched roof to address snow and ice. Points of compromise with Alex and the owner were discussed. It was explained that a previous discussion of a TIF did not progress as the owner did not respond or do needed documentation; it is a formal process to apply and be granted a TIF. A further discussion of parking revealed that there is no parking area in back of the building. Tracy Opalinski noted that the Community Development Authority has funding for low/moderate housing and has only worked with privately owned residential, not commercial buildings. Ms. Opalinski stated this building does fall under the slum and blight designation. Regarding questions of how the Historical Commission would proceed if there is breach of contract, the Building Inspector has the power to issue a Cease & Desist order. Of six towns listed on internet who have had demolition delay issues, only Athol and Carver answered and neither had problems with the owners. Cindi LaBombard noted her own personal difficulties when a carpenter began work without proper permits. The Historical Commission has the hope that the owner will keep the Mansard, either on the 2nd floor or on the 2nd floor with the look of a 3rd floor. Cindi LaBombard pointed out the Historical Commission has the job of working to preserve the character of Ware. Kathy Galford thanked Ms. Allen and Ms. Opalinski for their defense of the Historical Commission in this matter. Lynn Lak noted that the next meeting of the Historical Commission is scheduled for August 27th, but a meeting could be called sooner if there are new developments for this building.

b. Treasurer's Report

Kathy reported \$4,140.27 of the Historical Commission Fund as of 4/30/2018, \$4,048.87 of the Nenamesek Square Fountain Maintenance Gift Account as of 4/30/2018, and \$435.99 of the Town Hall Restoration Gift Account as of 4/30/2018. Additionally, \$251.18 from Schmidt Trust, \$241.91 from

Mexicali Grill fundraiser night, and a deposit of \$1,034.70 from Schmidt Trust were received and will be reflected in the next report. From Town Meeting, \$250 was also allotted in the budget.

2. Special Projects

- a. Town Hall/Great Hall – no news

3. Old Business & Updates

- b. Historical inventory-Town Hall bookcase

Lyn presented a spreadsheet of the inventory. Some items are on loan to the Historical Society. A recent donation of newspapers was presented by Maggie Sorel: very interesting WWII and VE Day to 1963 – these are preserved in archival boxes in the upstairs room. There is a new padlock on the door, courtesy of Marty Rohan. Kathy Galford noted that Nancy Talbot today donated personal historical items.

- c. Memorial Day observance at Quabbin Cemetery and Park

As reported above in the Treasurer's Report, the Schmidt Trust gave \$251.18 to the Historical Commission.

- d. Display Cases

Kathy Galford reported that she talked with Stuart Beckley, and the DPW will take away the broken display case. Marty Rohan stated that the Historical Society may want that case; Kathy will wait to hear from Marty. Kathy further stated that Michael Harris has donated another case for the Historical Commission.

4. New Business

- a. Comments and concerns from citizens- none
b. PVCPC Reviews – Review and signature of Historical Commission Chairman Lak for 77 Maple Street.


5. Mail & Announcements

Cindi LaBombard has been reappointed to the Historical Commission, Term to expire June 30, 2021. Marty Rohan has not yet requested to be reappointed; her term expires on June 30, 2018. Ms. Rohan has served on the Historical Commission approximately 36 years. Kathy noted the South Street School auction and sale scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Cindy LaBombard has begun a process to have a plaque for the Quabbin Park Cemetery. She stated that the Historical Commission, DCR and MHC all have involvement. She has also spoken with and has the support of Senator Gobi. Lynn Lak noted she is willing to sign a letter of support.

6. Adjourn

Kathy Galford made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.; Cindi LaBombard seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, member

The next meeting of the Historical Commission is Monday, August 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.