



TOWN OF WARE

Historical Commission
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082

Minutes
August 26, 2013

Present: Sharon Biskup, Kathy Galford, Cindi Labombard, Lynn Caulfield Lak, Judi Mosso, Wanda Mysona.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

1. Approval of June Minutes - **Motion** by S. Biskup, seconded by K. Galford to accept the June minutes as presented. Unanimous.
2. Treasurer's Report - K. Galford explained that the \$1,918 for the fountain's water tank was taken out of the wrong account which will be rectified. We will see a reduction for the Urban plaque at the end of September. We are anticipating \$1,500 from Monson Savings Bank after their Public Challenge. **Motion** by J. Mosso, seconded by S. Biskup, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimous.
3. Special Projects
 - a. *Methodist (Episcopal) Church at 13 Church Street* - C. Labombard stated that they plan to open as an arts center on October 5 which is the same day as the WBCA's Fall Fest. She was not sure if that was planned in congruence with the Fest or a coincidence.
 - b. *Town Hall replacement windows and paint* - The windows have been ordered and Stuart expects installation will be late September through October. To allow for the requested hold on the curved windows in the Town Clerk's office, Town Manager has added back the windows in the Building Inspector's office, the transoms in the meeting room, and the bathroom in the Assessors' office. He will check with MHC regarding their expectations for the window designs if the Town uses MHC funds for the curved windows. The Commission wants the Clerk windows to remain curved but that may mean requesting additional money at Town Meeting which we'd like to avoid. It was noted that our 5 Historic Register certificates are now located outside the BOS meeting room, high on the wall, above the benches.

Judi spoke to an historic paint conservator in Bristol, RI who confirmed that tertiary paint colors were used in the late 1880s. So, the paint colors we are considering (to cover the paneling in town hall) are within historic range.

- c. *Nenameseck Square Fountain Restoration* – Wayne Jones spoke to Lynn about shutting down the fountain for the winter. She felt it was more logical for him to teach the Parks Department, namely Foreman John Peichota, how to shut it down. Wayne will contact John directly.

Two finials for the fence are missing: one stolen, the other was loaned to Robinson Iron for possibly creating a template. The template has a one-time cost of \$4,500. Each finial after that would cost \$350. The DPW had extras at one time but they are all used up now. There was discussion about: how best to replace the finials; where they can be cast; Palmer foundry did not return Lynn's phone calls; possible alternative materials to make them; using *Blue Loctite* to permanently affix them to the fence; how the town goes about seeking damages paid if an insured driver causes property damage to the fence; Pathfinder cannot create finials; Kathy will talk to Dinn Brothers Trophies, Inc. who are creating the Urban plaque to see if they could create something more affordable; the fountain account is NOT for the fence; has the Parks Department showed financial support in the past; and, budget for the Parks Department vs. the Commission. C. Labombard will check to see when the last traffic accident was. Many departments have been involved with work at Nenameseck Square including Parks, DPW, the Commission and Community Development.

The BOS was granted oversight of the Square so that the road could be reconfigured. They inquired about returning care back to the Parks. There was discussion about who should actually have oversight and brief discussion about the Square's electric being paid for by FamilyFirst Bank. At this point, we felt the Commission should have oversight but the Parks should maintain day-to-day-operations of the Square. **Motion** by W. Mysona, seconded by L. Lak, for members of the Commission to meet with the Parks Commission and John Peichota, at their October or November meeting to discuss oversight of Nenameseck Square. Unanimous.

- d. *South Street School* – A roof leak is being repaired by Warren Roof. RFP to sell the building will likely be re-issued. Most items which were left in the building are headed for the trash.
- e. *Old Fire Station, East Street* – An RFP for the sale of the station is due September 19; there is a site walk tomorrow. The fire department has cleaned the second floor and any remaining items will be auctioned. Since the Society already has a cast iron stove, the Commission felt that getting the one from the old fire station was unnecessary. Judi spoke to Deputy Chief Ed Wloch who offered the old water wagon to the Commission and any remaining items we may find of interest. Judi has already rescued photographs, proclamations and fire call logs. She will ask Stuart if the Commission can have the far right dressing room in the Great Hall to store Commission items and papers. There

was an old weathervane which would have been of interest but unfortunately, the figure was stolen and all that is left are the compass points and some of those are broken. The Commission did not want any remaining parts. *Update: Stuart agreed to let the Commission use said room and we are trying to find an additional file cabinet.*

4. Old Business & Updates

- a. *Bandstand at Grenville Park* – They are still finalizing the cost and design. The anticipated budget is coming in high, so the project is being reduced. Most of the cost is in new concrete including an access ramp.
- b. *Fountain celebration* – Judi’s recent picture of the newly-restored fountain will be the cover of the invitations. We were holding off on sending them until we received the plaque for the Urban Foundation so we could pick a date. Plaque should be ready at the end of September (the granite for the plaque is ready now). We did not want our celebration to conflict with the WBCA’s Fall Fest or Columbus Day weekend so we decided on October 19 at 1 p.m. Since this is a private reception for donors only and not open to the public, we may NOT use our Commission money to pay for the party. Commissioners will have to contribute as best they can. We will use the Great Hall for the reception and decorate it with pictures of the fountain; Commission members will bring in what they can to decorate. After the reception, we will walk to Nenameseck Square for a group photo and disburse from there. Reception details decided so far:
 - Kathy will ask Big Y or Walmart to donate a cake
 - Kathy will send invitations with an “RSVP by” date
 - Members generally agreed to cook/bake light refreshments
 - Judi will donate a guestbook
 - Kathy will look into getting recognition from our legislators
- c. *Historical Artifacts/Loaning Items* – Judi has begun a database of items belonging to the Commission.
- d. *Preserving Historic Maps/FD photos* – Judi received an initial quote of \$200-300 to restore one of the old DPW maps we looked at in June. After one company saw a picture of the large wall map of Kubinski Field, they came back with an estimate of \$2,000. Since we are more focused on the fence at Nenameseck Square, we will return the maps to DPW. Kathy will look into a protective sleeve for the map to prevent it from further decay.

5. New Business

- a. *Comments and Concerns from Citizens* – none.
- b. *Fall Fest on October 5* – There will be an art show in the Great Hall that day in recognition of the Society’s 50th anniversary.

- c. *Pulaski Day Parade in Northampton, October 14 (Columbus Day)* – Cindi, Judi and Kathy are interested in walking but need to confirm their schedules. Last day to register is September 21.
 - d. *Cemetery Commission request* – The Cemetery Commission had requested our participation in a reenactment at the Aspen Grove Cemetery. Lynn referred them to the Historical Society.
6. Mail
- a. We received 2 programs from the 1904 and 1905 Fire Department balls from Michael C. Fallon of Marlborough, MA. His grandfather is listed in the programs. Lynn will send Mr. Fallon a thank you.
 - b. We received a request from MHC for help mapping three historic structures; 2 in Quabbin Park Cemetery and one at the Quabbin Reservoir. Judi will assist in completing the inventory and reply to the state.
7. Adjourn – We meet next September 26. **Motion** by S. Biskup, seconded by C. Labombard, to adjourn 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judith P. B. Mosso