



## TOWN OF WARE

Historical Commission  
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082

### Minutes June 23, 2014

**Present:** Cindi LaBombard, Lynn Caulfield Lak, Judi Mosso, Tracy Opalinski, Martha Rohan

**Interested citizens:** Julie Bullock

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

1. Approve May Minutes – Judi needed clarification on May’s minutes. She will send revised minutes.
2. May Treasurer's Report – We will wait for Kathy to distribute the financial report. **Motion** by L. Lak to reimburse Judi for various Commission-related expenses. Seconded by M. Rohan. So voted unanimously. Lynn still needs a file cabinet and door key; Judi will get them.
3. Nenaseck Square & Fountain – no update.
4. Special Projects
  - a) *Town Hall (replacement windows, interior paint, portico columns)* – The Town Clerk windows replacement contract has been awarded to Don Hayward. Thank you to Tracy who provided a thorough description of our options and how they related to historic preservation! The town is still looking for quotes for the portico columns.
  - b) *South Street School* – The open bid time will be extended since we only received one bid. There was brief discussion about using the building for upscale apartments or a medical building, and the cost of demolition.
  - c) *Old Fire Station, East Street* – no update.
5. Old Business & Updates
  - a) *Demolition Delay Bylaw* – The Commission would like to know what other small towns like Ware are doing in relation to the DD bylaw. Lynn is considering future commissions and what they will have to deal with. There was discussion about the details of a bylaw, and our options. Lynn will create

a draft over the summer and have it ready for august so we can potentially bring it to fall town meeting.

- b) *Updating Inventory (perhaps wait until after the October meeting of the Western MA Historic Commission Coalition)* – This would be very costly so we will look into hiring an intern to do a small portion of it.
- c) *Grenville Park Bandstand* – The bandstand is completed and will be re-dedicated on June 28 during the Knights of Columbus fireworks show.
- d) *Sign for Town Hall Municipal Offices* – Some employees of Town Hall wanted a lit sign; the Commission does NOT want it lit.
- e) *112-114 Main Street; Robinson-Hitchcock Block* – There has been no further contact from the owner. Judi thought he might inquire with the USDA to see what programs they have that could help.

6. New Business

- a) *Comments and Concerns from Citizens* - Julie Bullock from the Historical Society spoke about a free assessment program for documents and archives. The Society is considering sending their documents to Boston Public Library where a cradle scanner is used to digitalize archives. C. LaBombard stated that the Quabbin's archives would benefit from this technique as well.
- b) *Mural at 123 Main / Veterans' Park* - There was brief discussion about the possibility of a mural to be painted on the side exterior wall of Villa's Restaurant. Tracy spoke to Stuart and suggested that a historically-themed mural would be good for the town and encouraged participation from Workshop13, Youth Action Coalition, Valley Human Services, and The Carson Center.
- c) *Downtown Initiative* – Tracy provided an update on the final meeting held at Workshop13. The 3 models for downtown revitalization are 1.) a Business Improvement District (BID), 2.) the Main Street Program, and 3.) a business association. Stakeholders will likely choose the last option considering we already have a business association in place. Next steps are strengthening the business association. The way-finding project she is working on will help to jumpstart interest and energy.

7. Mail – none.

8. Adjourn - **Motion** by J. Mosso to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Seconded by T. Opalinski.

*Respectfully submitted by Judith P. B. Mosso*