



TOWN OF WARE

Historical Commission
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082

Minutes
February 25, 2013

Present: Kathy Galford, Cindi Labombard (7:20), Lynn Caulfield Lak, Judi Mosso, Wanda Mysona

Interested citizens: Maggie Sorel, Craig Simmons, Stuart Beckley, Susan Lincoln, Boz Lincoln.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Some items were taken out of order to accommodate schedules.

1. Approval of October Minutes – **Motion** by K. Galford, seconded by W. Mysona, to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimous.
2. Cemetery Commission and cemetery signs – Lynn contacted Bob Leonard regarding signs for the Ware Center Meeting House and East Church Street cemeteries. Instead of providing quotes, Mr. Leonard produced and sent the signs. Lynn has an e.mail trail showing that we did not actually order the signs. There was discussion about: whether we should open the package and look at the signs before we vote to purchase or return them; how frequently the Cemetery Commission would be requesting assistance from the Historical Commission and to what degree we can reasonably assist them. Craig Simmons confirmed that he would work with the Cemetery Commission and DPW to obtain poles, hardware and labor for mounting. **Motion** by C. Labombard, seconded by K. Galford, to open the package to see the signs. Unanimous. **Motion** by J. Mosso, seconded by C. Labombard to pay for the signs. Unanimous.
3. Treasurer's Report and Budget discussion – Stuart discussed the Commission's request to restore our budget to \$1,000. While he did not ask specifically what we would spend the money on, he asked us to clarify the category of spending. Kathy summarized the report and stated that we have received a few more private donations. Kathy will inquire with FamilyFirst Bank to see if any more posters were sold. **Motion** by J. Mosso, seconded by C. Labombard, to accept the financial report as presented. Unanimous.

4. Special Projects

- a. *Methodist (Episcopal) Church at 13 Church Street* – Lynn spoke with owner Roc Goudreau who stated that the floors are being cleaned and have determined that the building is structurally sound. The roof and boiler need to be replaced. Lynn assured him that the Commission is supportive. Their ultimate goal is an arts center and gallery.
- b. *Town Hall study – replacement windows; possible restrictions* – Town Manager Stuart Beckley reported that although we appropriated funds at town meeting to replace first floor windows, it will not be enough to do them all. The Commission viewed 3 different sample windows. We agreed that windows which the public sees the most should be replaced first, using the energy efficient window which is vinyl covered wood on the exterior and wood on the interior. It has built-in mullions and suits the aesthetics of the building. There was brief discussion about the police station (former post office built in 1937) which is also considering replacement windows. Since that building is not on the Register, the commission did not feel the need to participate in their window selection.

Kathy mentioned that there are several staff who feel that offices should be painted a similar color which reflects the 1880s era when town hall was built. Judi will contact the historic planner at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for suggestions.

Stuart mentioned possible grants from MA Preservation Project.

Unfortunately, applications are due next week and require specifications from an architect. If we do apply for this program, a contractor could provide specs for windows, not necessarily an architect.

- c. *Nenameseck Square Fountain Restoration* – Once we receive the \$500 from the WBCA, we will be at about \$6,465 for the restoration; a far cry from the \$23,900 we need (we will need a revised quote next year). Although we have a design and cost estimate, we are not ready to apply for a grant this year. We hope to have more funds next year, which would make it easier to apply for matching grants. Kathy sent a letter to the Urban Foundation but has not had a response yet. Judi inquired about public awareness for our fundraising including using the fundraising thermometer used by the 250th group. Wanda will look into an appropriate fundraising sign (we need permission from the Parks Commission before we install anything).
- d. *South Street School* – the one RFP submitted, by HAP, was rejected by the Board of Selectmen.

5. Old Business

- a. *New Banner* – There was discussion about what exactly the banner should read. A 6' banner should be sufficient. Kathy will get proofs for next meeting.

6. New Business

- a. *Comments and Concerns from citizens* - Susan Lincoln and Boz Lincoln were in attendance to see how the Commission worked. Lynn clarified that the Historical Commission is part of town government and the Historical Society is private and focuses on education and social events. They also inquired about the progress and goals for the Methodist church at 13 Church Street. There was discussion about donating some of Elizabeth Lincoln's art supplies for display if it becomes an art center.
- b. *Quabbin's 75th Remembrance* - Cindi reported that the ball will take place April 27 and tickets go on sale March 1 at town hall, senior center, Quabbin Visitors' Center and Friends of Quabbin website. A media blitz will begin soon to advertise ticket sales. State dignitaries will be invited as well as area commissions and other appropriate people. The Lincolns may loan some of Elizabeth Lincoln's paintings for the ball. They also have a DVD of a 1916 parade in Enfield, which could be broadcast during the ball.
- c. *Bandstand at Grenville Park* - The Commission informed Stuart that we would like to provide input on the design for the bandstand and be kept informed on meetings and progress.

7. Mail - one item (newsletter)

8. Adjourn - **Motion** by J. Mosso, seconded by K. Galford to adjourn 8:14 p.m.