



TOWN OF WARE

Historical Commission
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082

Minutes from meeting held
April 23, 2012

Present: Sharon Biskup, Kathy Galford, Cindi Labombard, Lynn Caufield Lak, Judi Mosso, Wanda Mysona, Martha Rohan

Chairman, Lynn Caufield Lak called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Approval of March Minutes – There was brief discussion about the meeting minutes and clarification on the date we met. Motion by C. Labombard, seconded S. Biskup, to accept the March minutes as revised. Unanimous.
2. Treasurer's Report – K. Galford provided an overview of our account balances. The Commission would like to see the fountain fund added to the report and have dates included. Motion by J. Mosso, seconded by C. Labombard to accept the financial report as presented, anticipating the 2 additions for future reports. Unanimous.
3. 1 Doane Road – 1 Doane Road (a.k.a. The Center House) is on the National Register. In order for the town to repair the bridge, the house needs to be demolished. Both Cindi and Julie Bullock are in communication with DPW Director, Thom Martens and Director of Planning and Community Development, Karen Cullen regarding demolition. The Society feels that there are some worthwhile components of the home which may be salvaged like wood and fixtures. The town received a letter from historical preservation specialist Bonnie Parsons explaining that even if a building is on the National Historic Register, that alone does not protect the structure.
4. Covered Bridge Wood – Dave Kopacz was not present when the wood was transferred. He has stated that the Rail Trail Committee does not have a place to store the wood. Once the wood is transferred, C. Labombard will have someone from that Committee sign a receipt acknowledging the transfer.
5. Special Projects
 - a. Methodist (Episcopal) Church at 13 Church Street – Town Manager Stuart Beckley has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and mentions the historical significance in said RFP. Although the Commission is interested in the large window Stuart felt that there should not be too many limitations in an RFP. Removing the windows would cost a great deal because of the care involved in the process.

- b. Town Hall study – W. Mysona has a copy of the study. There was discussion about: refurbishing Town Hall and the expense; the poor condition of South Street School; and the threshold of expenditure on renovations which would trigger ADA compliance. It was suggested to invite Stuart to one of our meetings.
6. Nenameseck Square – The Chairman wanted to show pictures of potential fountain tops, but we could not access the wi-fi; Judi will inquire with the IT department. Possible choices for fountain tops are Ceasar or Marietta. Measurements are needed to be sure and the bottom needs to be re-cemented. The 5 electrical circuits may possibly be retro-fitted for LEDs. Ware River News editor Tim Kane posted a blurb in the April 26 edition criticizing the condition of the fountain and providing much misinformation. Lynn will write a letter to the editor clarifying our project. There was discussion about painting the fence. Motion by J. Mosso, seconded by L. Lak, for W. Mysona to follow up with John Peichota regarding painting the fence and possibly using the Sheriff’s Community Service folks to help paint; and to notify the Commission in case anyone would like to engage in a community project. Unanimous.
7. Report from 250th Anniversary Committee – No update at this time.
8. 250th Book Group – The group met with White River Press on April 19 but have not reviewed proposals yet. Terms regarding distribution/marketing are ambiguous. Group is considering a black/white book with a 2-3 week turnaround time. C. Labombard will inquire with Collective Copies. It was reiterated that the Commission cannot donate money toward the book unless all proceeds go to the General Fund.
9. Old Business
 - a. Those Commissioners whose terms expire this June need to write a letter to the Selectmen for reappointment.
 - b. Cindi and Sharon borrowed the Covered Bridge folder.
10. New Business
 - a. Sunday, May 27 is the annual Quabbin walk; there was brief discussion about who is interested in walking.
11. Mail
 - a. Letter from Bank of America regarding Schmidt trust fund and requesting notice of our annual meeting.
 - b. We received an invitation to the 350th anniversary of Hampshire County. L. Lak feels this would be a good networking opportunity.
12. Adjourn - Motion by J. Mosso, seconded by C. Labombard, to adjourn 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judith P. B. Mosso, Secretary.