

Historic District Commission/Historic Commission
Meeting January 14, 2015
Bartley House 6:00 pm

Present: Carol Pynn, Frank Farmer, Wendy Williams, Nancy Kopec, Bonnie Parenteau, Joan Normington

Old Business:

Approval needed for minutes July, Sept, 2014. No objections and the minutes will be posted.

Approval needed for minutes Oct, Nov, and Dec 2014. These minutes will be sent out by email for approval.

New Business:

The Dec meeting was opened and closed. Wendy made a motion to close the Dec meeting. Carol seconded the motion. Vote passed.

The minutes from Dec were read. A discussion followed. Carol Pynn made a motion to accept the minutes. The vote was accepted.

The meeting time has been changed from 4 pm to 6 pm. Wendy made the motion to accept the time change. Peter seconded the motion. The discussion was completed. The vote passed.

Union Hall: Mrs Buckless is the person who owns the land and the Union Hall building. Frank has been in contact with the property owner and Shawn, the caretaker. It has been suggested that we present a copy of an existing sign to show them as an example. It will be possible for the HDC to do a site visit. The Union Hall has a steeple/cupola that might benefit from some repair.

TRC: Carol went to the meeting on Tues 1/13/15;

None of the 4 properties had historic value so there is no comment from the HDC.

There's the possibility of a proposed funeral home which will be built behind the St Matthews church. This will be a new building. It may be discussed at a Design Review meeting.

Signs:

Simpson Cellar: Possibly we could ask the Boy Scouts to assist with cleaning out the area as a community project. It would be necessary for them to receive some instruction on how to go about a clean-up, such as leaving any remnants or artifacts in place.

Guideposts: Finger signs: there are 5 in Windham. There's a proposal to add these signs to post. The 3 signs are by Depot/North Lowell Rd, East Nashua at Beacon, by Golden Brook School and behind Carpenters, by Windham Independent on Simpson Rd.

Indian Rock: this may be a good project for the Boy Scouts. The road will have limited access once Rt 93 is completed. We discussed an option of moving the Indian Rock to a more central location in town so that more people could see it. It might be better to clean up the rock, the plaque on it and the area where it sits now. There is no known target date for the completion of the cul de sac.

Should there be a park around the Indian Rock? We agreed that we'll need more information on the road construction completion.

Town Pound: We'd like a sign to be posted similar to the one on the Depot and by Searles school. We discussed the wording. Determining the date of origin was discussed. The first town pound was built in 1753 to house stray farm animals. In 1793 a pound was built near the developing Windham Center in a central location near the site of #116. James Cochran acquired the property and desired to build a new house there c 1860. He paid to have the walls of the town pound relocated to the rear of the old meeting house, now the Town Hall #111. This pound was in use only a short time; It was abandoned by 1883. (Morrison 1883: 100)

Union Hall wording was discussed and Nancy showed a same photo. The plans are in place to complete the Union Hall sign.

The sign (Union Hall) and the plaque (Town Pound) costs are \$2310.

Membership:

Bonnie Parenteau has submitted her resignation from the committee. This leaves an opening for a position on the committee. The HDC would like to recommend that Wendy Williams will become a regular member transferring from her alternate member position. This leaves an opening for an alternate, which will be filled by Joan Normington. A second alternate will be necessary. John Sycamore may be a candidate as an alternate.

Garaphelia Park: It's an area behind the Cemetary on the Plain at the intersection of Ministerial and Cobbetts Pond Rd. This might be an area that we could discuss with the Boy Scouts. If an area is around a cemetery it is recommended that he notify Wendy Devlin.

Budget: There was \$3000 set aside in last year's budget for HDC/HC use. This amount was moved to the 2015 budget. With the new allotment of another \$3000, it would bring our total to \$6000.

Carol brought up the idea of an evaluation for the Log Cabin. It was eligible for the National Register at one time. We are unaware of any plans to demolish the Log Cabin. An architectural engineer might make a visit to the Log Cabin to complete an evaluation. There is water and electricity.

Archibald Whitehead built this cabin in 1935.

Could this cabin be moved?

Possibly in the spring we could invite the property owners to a meeting to discuss any future plans.

There was \$239 (from the Eagle Scouts). This was partially used to pay for photographs taken by Joan Normington. Peter suggests using some of the money for a consultant who would assist with the Anniversary Book.

Crucius House: Karl Dubay is the engineer for Alex Ray and Nault. Alex Ray purchased the house for \$1 with potential plans to move it to the Common Man. Currently this may not be possible due to other projects in place by Alex Ray.

Town Forest: Cellar on 20 Osgood Rd was discussed. This area may be amenable to cleaning and a sign.

Anniversary for Windham 275th: Perhaps more media coverage could be coordinated with area newspapers.

Town departments could be approached for ideas and participation.

Carol brings up the subject of London Bridge on London Bridge Rd. The Eagle Scouts cleaned up the area at one time. Carol would like to suggest that we ask the Scouts to clean up the area again.

Meetings for HC/HDC: We discussed additional meetings other than the scheduled monthly meetings. Everyone agreed that this would be fine.

Officers: what positions are necessary or desirable?

Chairman: Peter recommended that we nominate Frank Farmer as chairman. Wendy (as an alternate Wendy was transferred into the regular position when Nancy had to leave early). Vote passed.

Recording officer: Frank made a motion to nominate Wendy as the recording officer. Peter seconded it. Vote passed.

Treasurer: It was agreed that we would not have a treasurer.

Should there be a Vice-chair? It was agreed that this would be good in the event of the chairman being unavailable for the monthly meeting. Peter made a motion to nominate Carol Pynn as the Vice Chair. Frank seconded the motion.

Vote passed.

Presbyterian Church Steeple: There is a question on what the roofing materials should be. For the church steeple repairs, the materials need to meet requirements. Peter made a motion to agreeing to use the EPDM materials on the roof. Frank seconded the motion. Vote passed.

Hopkinton Historical group had a speaker, Joan Radner who spoke on Oral Histories, and how to do them. Frank mentioned that this might be an interesting lecture to go to in the future.

Carol made a motion to close the meeting. Wendy seconded the motion. The vote passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.