

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Approved

DATE: January 10, 2022

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Leveille, Don Howe, David Rutstein, Paul Ivory, Marilyn Bisiewicz, Malcolm Fick

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Bill Nappo

1. Chairman Fick called the meeting to order as a virtual meeting authorized by the Governor's March 15, 2020 and June 16, 2021 orders. A roll call was conducted to determine members present.
2. Mr. Ivory moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting. Mr. Leveille seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.
3. Old Business
 - *Great Barrington: Here & Gone* status and distribution discussion
 - i. Mr. Leveille, Mr. Howe and Ms. Bisiewicz reported that they had distributed copies of the book that were all well received.
 - ii. Mr. Fick reported that more copies were available.
 - Walking tours
 - i. Mr. Fick reported that the walking tour app would be migrated to the company's new platform, STQRY. He will report on additional capabilities at the next meeting.
 - ii. A meeting is scheduled with a team from Clinton Church Restoration to discuss the possibility of adding a W.E.B. DuBois walking tour to the app.
 - CPA Update
 - i. Mr. Howe reported that all part 2 applications were approved for presentation to the Annual Town Meeting.
 - Updates on various projects of historical interest
 - i. Housatonic School – No news was reported
 - ii. Searles School – No updates
 - iii. Newsboy Park – Responsibility for landscape cleanup is still not identified. Mr. Howe reported that Historical Commission funds may be needed for a contractor.
 - iv. Trolley Shelter – Mr. Howe reported that a traffic circle may be proposed for Belcher Square, which may impact the Trolley Shelter.
4. New Business

- Approval of letters of support – Mr. Fick requested approval, after the fact, of letters of support that were required to be sent between meetings. Mr. Ivory moved to approve the following letters. Ms. Bisiewicz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - i. Mr. Ivory drafted a letter in support of the Clinton Church Restoration, which Mr. Fick signed and sent on behalf of the Commission.
 - ii. Mr. Fick sent a letter, on behalf of the Commission, in support of preservation the Housatonic School for consideration by the Select Board.
 - A letter from Mr. Richard Stanley concerning *Great Barrington Here and Gone* was discussed. In the letter Mr. Stanley pointed out that the book ignored many of the changes that had taken place downtown since the 1980's. The members of the commission expressed concern. While there is brief mention in the book of the Triplex cinema and the resurgence of the town, it was pointed out that the book was not meant to be a comprehensive history. Mr. Fick pointed out that this period in the Town's history may be fertile ground for treatment of its own.
 - Other New Business
 - i. Mr. Leveille and Ms. Bisiewicz reported that the sky is still falling – at least on the Ramsdell Library second floor. Library staff and the Library Trustees have been notified.
5. Other Member Issues
- None
6. Citizen's Speak – None
7. Next meeting date – March 14, 2022
8. Having concluded its business, Mr. Ivory moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick
Chairman