

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Approved

DATE: September 13, 2021

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 July 12, 2021 meeting. Ms. Bisiewicz seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.
3. Great Barrington Here and Gone
 - Mr. Fick reported that the book is expected to be delivered the following week. He expressed disappointment that the launch of the book missed the summer. Mr. Leveille and Mr. Ivory pointed out that the leaf season and the approaching holiday season should be good for distribution.
 - Books will be donated to the Historical Society to use as a fund raiser.
 - When the Historical Society needs and plans are finalized, other outlets will be pursued.
 - Books will be given to the Libraries.
 - The author, Mr. Drew, has agreed to a book signing, place and time to be determined.
 - The price will be \$29.95.
 - If a reprint is necessary, the commission will look into using donated funds for the book and the Commission budget.
4. Historical Walking Tour Update
 - Mr. Leveille reported that his review of the text and audio revealed some necessary changes. He will contact Mr. Fick next week to review the changes.
5. CPA Update
 - Mr. Howe reported that architectural services for the trolley shelter have been retained to develop bid documents for next Spring.
 - Mr. Howe also reported that, at the latest CPC meeting, a request was made to earmark a substantial portion of the CPA funds for affordable housing, to the detriment of funding for open space and historical preservation projects. The attempt was defeated by a vote of the CPC.

- Mr. Drew and Mr. Leveille have submitted guidance for the inventory that was funded by CPA funds.
 - Mr. Howe reported the schedule for submitting applications for next year's CPA grants: Part 1 is due November 5; Part 2 is due December 17.
6. Housatonic Improvement Committee
 - Mr. Nappo was not present to report on the committee.
 - Mr. Fick will contact Stephan Green to request that information on potential Monument Mills development be sent to the HIC.
 7. Searles High School Building
 - There were no official updates to report on the status, but informal reports indicate progress.
 8. Other Member Issues/New Business
 - Mr. Leveille reported that there was already graffiti on the finished repairs of the State Road bridge – Formerly known as the Brown Bridge, before that the Green Bridge, and before that the Great Bridge.
 9. During Citizen's Speak, Mr. Ed Abrahams reported that the organ from the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church will be moved from storage in his barn and retained by Clinton Church Restoration. It had been earmarked for disposal. Mr. Ivory will contact CCR to recommend that such a fundamental artifact be retained in their collection.
 10. The next meeting date was set for Monday November 1 at 5:00pm.
 11. Having concluded its business, Mr. Ivory moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Malcolm Fick
Chairman