

## Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Approved

DATE: November 15, 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. Howe moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting. Ms. Bisiewicz 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 reported that the Historical Society launch went well. There was a good turnout for the launch. The Society has distributed books to the book loft.
    - ii. Ms. Bisiewicz reported that the hospital gift shop sold 6 and that they requested additional copies.
    - iii. Mr. Howe will book December 10 for an HC launch event. Mr. Fick will contact Mr. Drew. Mr. Leveille will touch base with Bob Krol of the Historical Society.
    - iv. Mr. Howe requested that books be distributed to the school for history class. The commission agreed to that proposal and further agreed that it should be distributed to other non-profits and educational institutions.
  - Walking tours
    - i. Jim Mercer is updating the walking tour brochure which includes QR codes for the smartphone tour.
  - CPA Update
    - i. Mr. Howe reported that all part 1 applications were approved to proceed to part 2.
    - ii. Mr. Howe further reported that MassDot notified him that they would be working around the trolley shelter and Mr. Howe assured them that the trolley shelter is an historic resource.
  - Housatonic School
    - i. Mr. Fick, with Mr. Ivory's assistance, will submit a support letter for the preservation of the school building.

4. New Business

- 100 Bridge Street
  - i. Mr. Ivory reported on correspondence that indicated that CDC will integrate the smokestack into the park being developed at the site.
  - ii. There was a general discussion of the 1969 film *End of the Road* that was filmed at 100 Bridge Street.
- Pedestrian RR tunnel
  - i. The Commission expressed support for the CPA application to restore the pedestrian tunnel.
  - ii. Mr. Fick, with Mr. Ivory's assistance, will forward a letter of support for inclusion in the Town's CPA application.
- Other New Business
  - i. Ms. Bisiewicz and Mr. Leveille reported that Ramsdell ceiling is falling. Ms. Bisiewicz reported this to the Library staff who forwarded it to Town Hall.
  - ii. A preliminary model for the W.E.B. DuBois Library statue is to be displayed at the Library for comments. Mr. Ivory expressed concern that the sculpture should reflect the character of the subject.

5. Other Member Issues

- Mr. Fick reported that Richard Stanley has expressed disappointment in *Here & Gone*. He will forward any correspondence from Mr. Stanley and include a discussion in the next meeting.

6. Citizen's Speak – None

7. Next meeting date – January 10, 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