

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Approved

DATE: July 10, 2023

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Claire Teague Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Leveille, James Mercer, Marilyn Bisiewicz, David Rutstein, Malcolm Fick

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Howe, Paul Ivory, Elizabeth Shaker

1. Chairman Fick called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. *Ms. Bisiewicz moved to approve the draft minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mercer. All voted to approve.*
3. Old Business
 - CPA Update-- Mr. Mercer reported that the next CPA meeting was scheduled for the next day, July 11, 2023.
 - Updates on various projects if available:
 - i. Housatonic School – Ms. Bisiewicz noted that decorative boarding had been added to the school windows. Mr. Howe noted that interesting photos of Housatonic School were currently on display in the Clerk’s office.
 - ii. Newsboy statue – Mr. Fick reported that maintenance of the statue would be performed by Daedelus in August.
 - iii. Trolley Shelter – Mr. Ivory reported that he has made progress researching for the Trolley Shelter interpretive sign. He asked about timing. Mr. Howe suggested that the work could be done anytime from now to a year from now. Mr. Howe also reported that approximately twenty-five thousand dollars will be available from the project budget for the information panel and two trees that are required. Mr. Mercer suggested that the artist producing the Utility Box Graphics might be a good resource for the interpretive panel. Mr. Fick said that he had exchanged messages with Rachel Fletcher about the producer of the River Walk panels. Since the panels were erected so long ago, she suggested speaking with the Clinton Church Restoration team. Mr. Leveille suggested that the Berkshire Courier may have had articles about the construction of the Trolley Shelter. Mr. Mercer said that he would have a copy.
 - iv. *Great Barrington Here and Gone* – Ms. Bisiewicz requested six additional copies for the hospital gift shop and for a table she would have at a future Farmer’s Market.
 - v. Utility Box Graphics – Mr. Mercer reported that all the box graphics would be installed in August.

- vi. Church Park sign – Mr. Mercer reported that Craig Okerstrom-Lang is moving from the West Street neighborhood and would be unlikely to participate in the sign design. Mr. Fick said he would follow up based on the design that Mr. Okerstrom-Lang had previously presented.
 - Smartphone Walking Tour status
 - i. Mr. Fick uploaded the corrected audios recorded by Mr. Leveille and Ms. Katelyn Leveille. Mr. Fick distributed a copy of the photo that would be uploaded for the Flying Church.
 - GB Airport National Register eligibility – Ms. Shaker said that the airport ownership is a bit worn down from the recent struggle for its continued existence and did not have the desire to pursue National Register listing at this time. She suggested that an interpretive panel describing the airports rich history would be a welcome alternative.
 - Artifacts Policy
 - i. Commission members discussed a letter received by the former Assistant Librarian requesting that the Commission take the lead on disposing of Native American Artifacts remaining in the library. Ms. Bisiewicz suggested that there was still much that is not known about the articles listed in the letter and that the members should further ponder the request prior to the next meeting. All members concurred.
 - ii. Mr. Fick said he would research a policy for the Selectboard concerning disposition of Town historical artifacts.
4. New Business
- Mr. Fick reported that he would be meeting with Historical Society representatives to explore how the Commission and Society could better collaborate.
5. Other Member Issues
- None
6. Citizen's Speak – None.
7. Next Meeting Date – September 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm at a site to be determined.
8. Adjourn – Without objection, Mr. Fick adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick
Chairman