

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Approved

DATE: January 22, 2024

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Claire Teague Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Leveille, Marilyn Bisiewicz, Malcolm Fick, Abby Schroeder

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: James Mercer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Howe, Paul Ivory

1. Chairman Fick called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. Mr. Fick opened the meeting with the announcement that David Rutstein had resigned his position on the Commission due to health reasons. All members expressed their regret and hope that Mr. Rutstein can continue to participate in Commission discussions as his health permits.
3. *Mr. Leveille moved to approve the draft minutes of the November 21, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schroeder. All voted to approve.*
4. Old Business
 - CPA Update – Mr. Howe reported that the CPC had forwarded various projects to the Annual Town Meeting for approval. This included a portion of the Mason Library steps and shell, but not the lights.
 - Updates on various projects reported on:
 - i. Trolley Shelter –
 1. Mr. Ivory continues to work on the content of the shelter signage.
 2. Mr. Leveille reported on a large collection of Berkshire trolley artifacts that are now in Lee. There is some consideration of distributing the trolley artifacts to the towns represented.
 3. Two styles of signs were discussed, including vertical panels, such as the DuBois Center sign, and horizontal, such as the Stanley Overlook on the River Walk. The cost of these will be explored. Mr. Ivory cautioned that the size of the any panels has to be dependent on the content.
 - ii. Ramsdell Library
 1. Mr. Leveille reported that he cleaned plaster debris from the boxes but the debris still remains on the floor.
 2. Mr. Leveille now has Ramsdell access to facilitate the archivist work for the Historical Society.
 - Work with Historical Society – Mr. Fick reported that the Commission's 2025 budget request included \$10,000 to help support joint display of Society and Commission artifacts at

Wheeler House. If the budget is approved, the specific expenses will be discussed and approved by the Commission.

5. New Business

- Open Positions – With the resignation of David Rutstein, two positions are currently open. Ms. Schroeder said that Carrie Chen had expressed interest in joining the Commission. Mr. Fick asked members to consider others who may fill the remaining position.
- Master Plan Task Review – The Action Items assigned to the Historical Commission in the Master Plan were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Fick will prepare a summary of the discussion to review with the members and forward to the Planning Board.
- MHC Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund – MHC announced Round 30 of MPPF grants that are offered for construction funds for historical preservation projects. The Commission will not be applying this year.
- Mr. Fick described a significant document that was recently found. It may be the 1761 warrant for the first Great Barrington Town Meeting. The authenticity of the document and steps for its preservation will have to be determined.

6. Other Member Issues – None.

7. Citizen's Speak – None.

8. Next Meeting Date – March 4, 2024, at 5:00 pm at a site to be determined.

9. Adjourn – Without objection, Mr. Fick adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick
Chair