

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes -- Approved

DATE: March 22, 2021

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

FOR: Regular Meeting

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

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 order. A roll-call was conducted to determine members present.
2. Ms. Bisiewicz moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. Mr. Rutstein seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.
3. Mr. Fick informed the commission that no budgeted FY21 funds have yet been used.
4. CPA Update
 - Mr. Howe reported that the contract is being issued by the Town for the Trolley Shelter design.
 - Mr. Howe reported that all projects were approved by the CPC for FY22, including the Mahaiwe Theater and the Congregational Church manse.
 - Mr. Howe reported that there may be issues regarding the commitment of the Powerhouse Square developers regarding the powerhouse removed from the vicinity of Memorial Field.
5. Great Barrington Here and Gone
 - Mr. Fick reported that the Furthermore Grant application was submitted. Members agreed that commission funds should be used for printing if the grant is not received or will be used for more copies and for promotion if the grant is received.
 - Mr. Leveille reported that his edits are completed. Mr. Ivory is working on his edits. The author, Mr. B. Drew, is anxious to complete the work.
 - Mr. Fick will discuss marketing with the GB Historical Society. Commission members expressed support for providing the books to the Historical Society free of charge to promote preservation of the Town's historical resources.
 - The book will be offered for a fee to bookstores and other outlets interested in promoting Town historical resources.

6. 100 Bridge Street – Mr. Fick agreed to contact the CDC to remind them of the commitment that was made regarding the smokestack foundation on 100 Bridge Street. Mr. Ivory will send text of emails that he exchanged with CDC discussing the plan.

7. Historical Walking Tour Update

- Assignments for reviewing the sections of the walking tour were made and accepted. Volunteer(s) for each section follow. Audio files will be sent to each listed reviewer.

<u>Tour Section</u>	<u>Reviewer</u>
Introduction	Malcolm/Gary
Stop 1 - Mason Library	Marilyn
Stop 2 - St. Peter's Church	Paul
Stop 3 - William Stanley Overlook	David
Stop 4 - Former Methodist Church	Malcolm
Stop 5 - Old Berkshire Courier Building	Marilyn
Stop 6 - Main Street	Paul
Stop 7 - City Store & Railroad Street	Don
Stop 8 - Old Courthouse and Mahaiwe Block	David
Stop 9 - Town Hall	Paul
Stop 10 - Former St. James Church	Gary
Stop 11 - Searles Castle	Don
Stop 12 - Dwight	Don
Stop 13 - Bridge Street	Gary
Stop 14 - Searles and Bryant Schools	David
Stop 15 - W. E. B. Du Bois Birthplace	Marilyn
Stop 16 - Congregational Church	Gary
Conclusion	Malcolm/Gary

New - Clinton AME Church Paul

- Mr. Fick will get QR code for downloading the tour for inclusion in Jim Mercers walking tour booklet.

8. Other Member Issues/New Business

- Mr. Leveille will contact Daedelus to get the 2020 report and schedule the next maintenance.
- Ms. Bisiewicz reported that the Housatonic Improvement Committee minutes mentioned interest in a possible walking tour of Housatonic. Mr. Fick reported that he contacted Dan Bailey for details. Members felt that Mr. Nappo may be the best member to conduct such a tour.
- Mr. Ivory reported that the Searles High School building is further deteriorating. Mr. Fick will speak with the town about the status.

- Mr. Ivory reported that demolition has been introduced as a serious option for the Housatonic School. The members will continue to monitor the situation.

9. There were no comments from the public.

10. The next meeting date was set for May 3, 2021 at 5:00pm.

11. Having concluded its business, Mr. Fick adjourned without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Malcolm Fick
Chairman