

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes – Draft

DATE: March 18, 2024

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Claire Teague Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Leveille, Marilyn Bisiewicz, Malcolm Fick, Abby Schroeder, James Mercer, Carrie Chen

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Howe, Paul Ivory

1. Chairman Fick called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
2. Mr. Fick opened the meeting with a welcome to new member, Carrie Chen, and returning member, Don Howe.
3. *Ms. Schroeder moved to approve the draft minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bisiewicz. All voted to approve.*
4. Old Business
 - CPA Update – Mr. Mercer reported that the next CPC meeting is April 2, 2024.
 - Updates on various projects reported on:
 - i. Searles High School Building – Members were pleased to see progress on the building with the demolition of the gym.
 - ii. Newsboy Statue
 1. Mr. Fick reported that he and Mr. Howe met with Joe Aberdale to discuss the landscaping for the Newsboy Park and the Trolley Shelter Park. Mr. Howe distributed sketches of landscaping proposed by Lisa Parker, the Town's landscape designer.
 2. There was a general discussion concerning the design ideas contained in the sketches. Since the ideas were new to the members, and since the date of the next meeting would likely come after planting had begun, Mr. Fick suggested that members forward any thoughts about the design to him and he would forward them to Mr. Aberdale and Ms. Parker.
 3. Members suggested that a standard park sign be installed to identify the Newsboy Park.
 - iii. Trolley Shelter
 1. Mr. Fick suggested that, as with the Newsboy Park, any suggestions related to the landscape design be forwarded to him to forward to Mr. Aberdale and Ms. Parker.
 2. A general discussion of the interpretive sign was led by Mr. Mercer.

- a. Mr. Mercer suggested using a multi-paneled design similar to the W.E.B DuBois sign on the Riverwalk. It could be curved and contain tracks and a timeline to pull together snippets expressed in the sign.
 - b. Mr. Mercer passed around a collection of trolley photos that could be used.
 - c. He suggested considering using Franklin Marble, the graphic designer that was used for the utility box graphics.
 - d. Mr. Ivory presented several of the narratives that he had prepared. Several more were to be completed. He cautioned about getting too far into the design before the text is finalized.
 - e. Mr. Fick suggested that, given the level of research conducted by Mr. Ivory, supplemental information to that included on the sign could be accessed through QR codes.
- iv. Church Park Sign – It was generally agreed that a standard park sign be placed at the park.
- v. Artifacts Policy
 1. Mr. Fick reported that he presented the Artifacts Policy to the Selectboard, and they adopted it unanimously.
 2. Mr. Leveille reported that he and Mr. Fick were scheduled to visit Mason Library on March 19 to examine furniture and artifacts that are being considered for disposal. This would be the first request under the new Artifacts Policy.
- Historic District Commission – The new library director had raised concerns to Mr. Leveille that the clamshell over the front door of the Mason Library was to be removed, leaving a hole in the outer wall. Mr. Howe, who is also Chair of the Historic District Commission said that the HDC had no plans to approve removal of the clamshell.
- Work with Historical Society – Mr. Fick reported that the proposed 2025 Historical Commission budget was increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and would be presented at Town Meeting. Mr. Fick had justified the increase as a first step to examining where the Town Historical Artifacts should be housed. Some of the funds are intended to pay the Historical Society to display Historical Commission artifacts.

5. New Business

- Colonel Brown Mausoleum
 - i. Mr. Fick was asked by Mr. Aberdale to ask the Historical Commission to certify that no descendants of Col. Brown exist, and that the Town could take over the mausoleum. Mr. Leveille's previous research indicated such.
 - ii. Mr. Fick reported that there may be descendants. Recent digitizing of local newspapers has opened sources of information that were not previously available. A search of newly available newspapers revealed an obituary for Eunice Brown, the

widow of Col. Brown's grandson, who was thought to have emigrated to Europe. The 1995 obituary indicated that several descendants were alive at that time. Mr. Fick will attempt to track them down.

6. Other Member Issues – None.
7. Citizen's Speak – None.
8. Next Meeting Date – May 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm at a site to be determined.
9. Adjourn – Without objection, Mr. Fick adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Fick
Chair