

Wayland Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

In the Select Board Meeting Room, Wayland Town Building, In Person and on Zoom

Present: Katherine Gardner-Westcott, Sherry Anne Bryant, Brad Carver, Rick Conard, Ann Gordon, Tonya Largy, Amanda Ciaccio

K. Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Applicants for CPA Funding Seeking WHC Support

Trudy Reid, Town Clerk: After clearing the Town's storage vault of many records to be discarded, the Clerk's office has turned its attention to preserving permanent and historic documents. Trudy Reid has consulted with Kofile, an organization that helps preserve documents, and will be looking for about \$200,000 to preserve Wayland's historic documents over the next several years. Many of the records are in old books that are fragile, and some records are not in books. The books are preserved by placing each page in a protective plastic sleeve.

VOTE: A. Gordon and A. Ciaccio moved and seconded that the WHC support this project.
Motion passed, 7-0

Linda Malenfant: Linda Malenfant and her husband Sherman Homan are abutters to Stone's Bridge. Work has taken place in recent years to rehabilitate and strengthen the bridge, but it has stalled for various reasons. The PMBC will establish the total cost, the amount of the request. According to Facilities Director Ben Keefe, this project was bid first in July 2019. It was initially bid as one arch as the base price, and second arch as additional, and learned that it would be more economical to do all arches at once. It was bid again in July 2021, for \$97K, and it was thought there was a signed contract, but it fell apart and the contractor walked away. It was bid again this summer, for \$766K for four arches. If we assume low bid with 7% escalation factor, total \$926K which requires additional funding, so Ben Keefe suggests the request should be for \$300K, which would give us 14% escalation and 10% contingency. This started as a WHC project and would continue to be under our direction, when funded. Stone's Bridge is listed on the National Register.

VOTE: Tonya Largy and B. Carver moved and seconded that we continue to oversee this project and support its funding. Motion passed, 7-0

Historical Society: Gretchen Schuler and Brad Keyes reported that the Historical Society needs to replace the HVAC in the Grout Heard House. The cooling function cannot be repaired, and the heating function is at the end of its useful life. They would like to replace the system with a heat pump. The building itself, and its contents, need to have a consistent temperature and humidity. Mechanical and electrical work would enable switching from oil, and that requires upgrading the electrical service. Current estimate is \$55,000, and they will get additional bids.

They intend to apply to Mass Cultural Council for a matching grant, and if they receive that, the request from CPC will be half. Non-profits cannot get the rebates or tax credits associated with heat pumps.

VOTE: A. Gordon and B. Carver moved and seconded to support the project. 6-0, K. Gardner-Westcott abstained, as an employee of the Historical Society Museum.

Wayland Library: MJ Wright and Chris Lindquist reported that the Library is seeking funds for three projects:

- 1. Antique Wooden Box.** This box was used to send books from Wayland Library to Cochrane. Library bought it in 1895 for \$3.50. They want to preserve it and put it on display in a locked display cabinet.
- 2. Trustee Record Book, 1870.** This was digitized by BPL, but this one when it came back, it fell apart. It is an important artifact, James Draper's handwriting fills the book.
- 3. Funding for Archival Supplies.** Louise Brown made scrap books with news clippings and other historic information about the Library, and they should be preserved.

VOTE: A. Ciaccio and T. Largy moved and seconded to support the Library's project. Motion passed, 7-0

Assessor's Request: K. Gardner-Westcott described this project. These eight town record books have not been digitized because they are too fragile. The Assessor is asking for money to preserve the eight record books for future digitization, hopefully. Digitized records are on Archive.com. The oldest book is from 1778, and the rest of the eight are not in consecutive order because some of the years are still in acceptable condition for digitizing. These would be preserved by Northeast Document Center.

VOTE: S.A. Bryant and A. Ciaccio moved and seconded to support this project. Motion passed, 7-0.

Discussion of possible WHC request: The Lab needs more bags and boxes of different sizes, binders, and archival folders and hanging folders for vertical files. The need is for preservation materials for the lab and the office, for our own documents.

VOTE: A. Gordon and A. Ciaccio moved and seconded that we approve a request to CPC of up to \$5,000. Motion passed: 7-0.

Educational Video

A. Ciaccio has received the video from Chris Thompson and has asked for some edits. She has not yet heard back from him. She needs to get the request for reimbursement in to the

Wayland Cultural Council in the next few weeks. She could ask for an extension from the Cultural Council so that she can pay Chris and get reimbursed.

VOTE: T. Largy and A. Gordon moved and seconded to take \$400 from our budget so Amanda can submit the invoice when the video is complete. Motion passed 7-0

Review of Minutes

T. Largy and R. Conard moved to accept the amended October minutes. Motion passed: 5-0. T. Largy and B. Carver abstained.

Cemeteries

A. Gordon reported that a contract had recently been signed with Epoch Preservation for the preservation work required in the North, South and Lakeview Cemeteries. The contract does not include details such as a project timeline. This will be worked out separately. A. Gordon and B. Carver will contact Epoch to schedule a pre-project meeting to review details such as timeline and invoicing. Epoch has said they expect the work to begin in spring 2024.

Archaeology

T. Largy reported on efforts in the Lab to return some items to neighboring towns, including Sudbury and Framingham. She is using a transfer form for Framingham, which is required any time we transfer items.

Excavation work is beginning at Weir Meadow 2, and architect Doug Sacra has spoken with T. Largy. She has not yet heard from them about reviewing the disturbed area, but did visit the location. T. Largy is using a transfer form that K. Gardner-Westcott created for private land owners to document if artifacts are found on their property.

T. Largy and R. Conard attended Duncan Ritchie's talk on Sand Hill. Many of the artifacts in our lab are from Sand Hill.

House Plaques

B. Carver is working with Custom Signs in Waltham and is happy with the work. Three households are interested: 105 Plain Road, 148 Plain Road, 5 Stanton Street. K. Gardner-Westcott reported that she found documents indicating that the name of the builder was supposed to be on the house plaques, rather than the first owner. Discussion ensued.

One applicant asked for a smaller plaque for her smaller house. The Commissioners agreed this would be ok as long as the style remains consistent.

Railroad and Rail Trail

R. Conard gave tours during the Mass Central Rail Trail conference to a bicycle group and a second group, maybe 15 to 20 people. He also reported submitting a grant application to the Cultural Council on Oct. 12 for \$1,275 for the cost of the vinyl wrap. A. Ciaccio helped with the application. R. Conard learned that the Medway Historical Commission had done some signal boxes in their town with photos. Ours would be a combination of text and photos. We would hope to find a volunteer for graphic design.

Regarding ongoing work at the Depot, R. Conard reported that the blacksmith has made the interior control rods, they've been fabricated and painted. The ladder that goes outside is done. When the inner control rods are connected, they'll have to check to see if the two outside rods needs a curve in them. David Graf, the contractor, is trying to arrange for a day to come do the work. R. Conard is trying to arrange for Scott Sweeney, who is working on the lamp, to come at the same time.

R. Conard has been meeting with Kathy McGrath and others from Sudbury for several months about interpretive panels they might be placed along the rail trail. K. Gardner-Westcott spoke recently with Chris Haggart, who noted what a help R. Conard has been in connecting Sudbury and Wayland regarding the rail trail.

We need to make progress on our own signs, both at the Mansion Pillars, and elsewhere. A. Ciaccio will speak with Conservation about who fabricated the signs they put at Cow Common.

Reports from Other Boards

S.A. Bryant reports that the Select Board has an item on its agenda tonight regarding deed and conservation restrictions at 104, 106 and 110 Plain Road. Planning Board is looking at MBTA multi-family housing situation.

A. Ciaccio reported the Planning Board had on its recent agendas 10 Greenway, Route 20 master plan, and 60 Shaw Drive conservation cluster.

The Historic District Commission does not have any meetings scheduled. Conservation at their Oct. 18 meeting, regarding 24 School Street, voted that the stream is intermittent, which means they can build close to it.

K. Gardner-Westcott reported that Adam Gutbezahl came to visit the lab, and she and T. Largy gave him a tour and described our work. They discussed the budget process.

B. Carver and A. Ciaccio moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon