**Wayland Historical Commission**

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

K. Gardner-Westcott called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Veritas School**

T. Largy reported that she, S.A. Bryant, R. Conard, and K. Gardner-Westcott took a walking tour of the Veritas property. In order to get their bond, Veritas has asked us to write a letter stating any concerns we might have about their project. T. Largy identified some concerns about possible Native American stone groupings. There were pink tapes tied to some shrubs; it’s not clear what they represent. The Conservation Department did not know. K. Gardner-Westcott wonders if we want them to have an archaeologist there when they are digging. A. Gordon will draft a letter outlining our concerns.

Motion: B. Carver moved and T. Largy seconded that we draft a letter setting forth our comments and concerns. 6-0

**Public Comment:** None

**Review of Minutes**: MOTION: S.A. Bryant moved and T. Largy seconded that we accept the amended minutes from January 8, 2023. VOTE: 6-0 in favor

**CPC Report**

K. Gardner-Westcott attended the Finance Committee meeting where the CPC-funded projects were discussed. There she learned that on the Sherman’s Bridge Road project, the warrant includes the cost of taking down the house.

Stone’s Bridge was approved for funding by CPC, and if approved by TM, we will continue to “own” that project. B. Carver said that the PMBC expects Ben Keefe to supervise it. The CPC will present the article at Town Meeting.

The high water is up to the arches of the Old Town Bridge alongside Route 27. R. Conard says the bridge is owned by DCAMM, a state agency: Division of Asset Management and Maintenance. It is said to be the oldest four-arch stone bridge in Massachusetts. Discussion about alerting DCAMM about the condition of the bridge – high water, a tree that recently fell on it, etc.

**Cemeteries**

B. Carver and A. Gordon met with Epoch Preservation by Zoom. They described their methodology, and the order in which they will proceed. Payments will be based on a per-stone basis. When Epoch finds artifacts while repairing gravestones, they typically photograph and document them, and rebury them. The Commission agrees with this approach.

Epoch often posts photos and information about their work on social media. The prevailing feeling was to ask them not to identify the location if they post images from Wayland’s cemeteries. There was concern about provoking too much interest.

**Archaeology**

The inventory project is ongoing. New locks have been installed on all the doors leading to or from the lab and office.

**House Plaques**

A new application for a plaque has been filed. K. Gardner-Westcott had met with the owner to help research the history of her home.

**Rail Trail and Railroad**

R. Conard reports that Jonathan Bryant is interested in helping with the Tower Hill vinyl wrap. R. Conard is sharing with him some of the source materials.

T. Largy reports that she took some samples of wood from the train order signal pole, and, under a microscope, identified pine, spruce and tamarac species.

**Reports from Other Boards**

B. Carver learned from the PMBC meeting that Archaeologist Duncan Ritchie has been monitoring the Community Center project and currently has no concerns.

T. Largy reports that Duncan Ritchie and Public Archaeology Lab is also monitoring the St. Ann’s project and told her he did find something and will share it in the report.

The Planning Board received a notice about the St. Ann’s project and sent a copy to us. K. Gardner-Westcott will ensure we have the letter at our next meeting.

There is currently a proposal for putting a storage unit in Cochituate, behind Donelan’s grocery store. T. Largy has discerned that a registered sensitive site is next to it. Conservation owns the land. K. Gardner-Westcott will alert Planning and Conservation, and T. Largy will alert Mass Historical Commission.

**New Business**

K. Gardner-Westcott received a letter from Michael Lowery who is interested in moving forward with the property on Dudley Pond where a boat launch had been planned. He inquired about ownership and issuance of an Order of Conditions. K. Gardner-Westcott will respond.

A. Gordon moved and B. Carver seconded that the meeting adjourn. 6-0

Adjourned at 7:58pm.

The meeting was reopened at 7:59pm

**Signs for Dudley Woods**: We cannot use the content that was created some years ago. We will determine what areas of history we want to cover, and can use photos from the Historical Society and other sources.

B. Carver moved and T. Largy seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon