

Pelham Historical Commission Meeting *MINUTES*
November 19, 2013

Present: Joe Larson, Karl Martini, Daniel Robb, Blair Bigelow, Charles Thompson

Guest: Ed Dane

Meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Minutes (September, no October meeting) – Martini accepted

Treasurer's Report – Thompson

No money was spent during the past two month. Accounts are unchanged (\$200 PHC budget, \$887.44 trust fund)

Old Business

1. Meetinghouse Road Bridges

Joe shared the latest plans for the proposed bridge on Meetinghouse Road. The construction will be paid for out of federal money. Rick will be keeping a careful eye on it. Original abutments will be preserved. It will have a dry crossing for wildlife.

2. Cemetery CPA historic preservation project

The cemetery CPA project was approved by town meeting. There was very little discussion about it during the town meeting (Norm Page spoke about it). Planned are repairs of stone walls, removal of hazardous trees, repair of metal fencing and gates. The work will be contracted out. Rick and Buzzy have contacts to the appropriated contractors.

Question was raised of what will be/ shall be happening to the headstones and graves that are caving in. We will have a consultant come in to give advice about it. An expert on cemetery work is living in New Salem (advised the MDC about the Quabbin cemetery). Joe will contact her in the future to come and talk to us.

3. Museum CPA project

There is some money left over from the summer painting / restoration work, in the moment unclear if it is enough to do the additional needed carpentry work to maintain the building. (About \$5000 left over as the bids came in so low).

4. Old crib dam

Alex is concerned about the newly exposed crib dam and wants to remove it. They haven't started the state historical review. The site needs to be documented. (Photography and descriptions) It is unclear in the moment if any parts need to be preserved. (A sizable trout (12") was already caught above the dam sites, i.e. the fish is moving upstream as intended.)

New Business

Fish Road Factory Image on Historical Society mug

The Image of fish rod factory is backwards, but looks otherwise great.

Western Mass Historical coalition Meeting

(12/9 at 9am in Springfield) Joe will attend.

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Final phases of the historical survey

Joe collected the names and contact information of owners of properties for the outstanding properties of the historical survey for Bonnie, so that she can contact them before going to do the architectural description.

Cell tower still in the permission process, will take at least another half of a year.

Monthly Updates

Historic Complex – Robb

Community Hall – Robb

Historical Society - Bigelow

Ed Dane shared a letter from the 1780's about the summoning of a county convention (signatures of Samuel Adams, Agnes Ward, and Nathaniel Gorham) that is in his personal possession.

Next Meeting: 12/17/13 (third Tuesday) at 7:30pm History Room, Pelham Library

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, KM